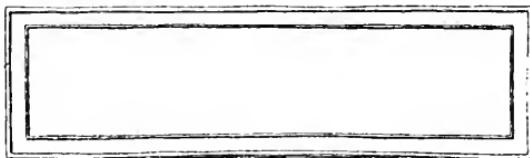
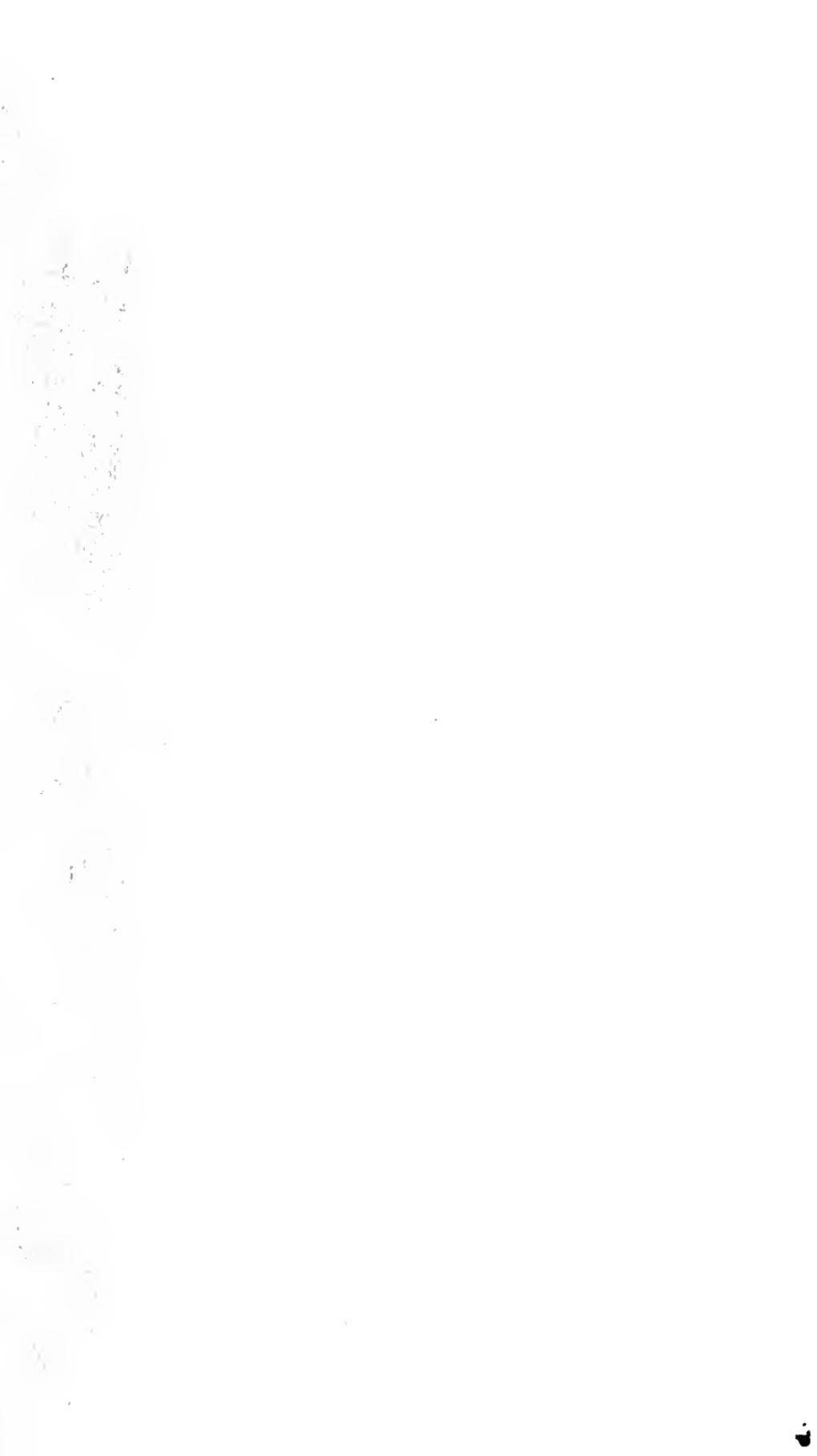


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
AT LOS ANGELES















SAIN<sup>T</sup> ANTHONY,  
*Abbott of the Company of Grocers*  
*from an ancient carved figure preserved at Grocers Hall.*

Some Account of the  
Worshipful Company of Grocers,  
*OF THE*  
CITY OF LONDON,  
By  
JOHN BENJAMIN HEATH ESQ<sup>R</sup>.

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*"Hocibus hic statim sub sole recente  
ingens piper et pallentis grana cynamini."*

*Persius. Sat. V.*



LODNON. 1829.

J. B. Heath.

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TO THE

**MASTER, WARDENS,**

AND THE

**Members of the Court of Assistants,**

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you the following pages, I ought, perhaps, to express some diffidence at the reception they are likely to meet with, and to make a multitude of apologies for the inefficient mode in which I have executed my undertaking. All this I would willingly do were I an author by profession, or even by pretension; but, as I am neither the one or the other, I shall content myself with saying that I have endeavoured to do my best. I am conscious that my work abounds with faults, both of omission and commission; but, when I assure you that it has been executed at those intervals which my avocations left me, and that,

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from the nature of the subject, it was impossible for me to derive assistance from any one, you will, I am sure, peruse its contents with that feeling of indulgence which I claim at your hands. I felt the strongest interest on the subject, and it was natural I should do so, considering that it treats of the origin and progress of the most ancient of the twelve Companies of London, a Company now composed of individuals in whose society I have passed some of the most pleasing hours of my life, and from whom I have received so many proofs of kindness and of friendship.

With every feeling of gratitude and attachment I now present to you the result of my researches into the history and transactions of your predecessors ; and I subscribe myself,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obliged friend and servant,

J. B. HEATH.

LONDON,  
*January, 1830.*

## P R E F A C E.

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THE GROCERS' COMPANY is the most ancient of the twelve great Companies of London; and as it was, undoubtedly, the first commercial Corporation ever known in England, and one from which sprung, in aftertimes, some of our greatest mercantile establishments, it has frequently been a source of surprise and of regret, that there should exist no account of the origin and proceedings of this venerable body. In the year 1689, *Mr. Ravenhill*, their Clerk, at the period when the destruction of their property by the fire of London had placed them in a situation of difficulty, published, what he termed “The Company's “Case,” to which he annexed “A short Account of the “Grocers.” The object of “*The Case*” was, to demonstrate to the world, that the Company had acted towards their creditors in the most honourable manner, and that their inability to meet their engagements at that period, arose from circumstances over which they had no control, and principally from the want of faith on the part of those who had borrowed, or rather extorted from them, their

funds. *Mr. Ravenhill's Account of the Company* consists of a dozen pages, very superficially written, and composed entirely of materials gathered from *Stowe*, and from other authors who had obtained their scanty information from tradition, without any reference to the early records of the Company, of the existence of which *Mr. Ravenhill* appears to have been ignorant. *Mr. Bridgman*, the Clerk in 1792, was the first person who ascertained that the records and journals of the Company were in a complete state; and he was charged by the Court of Assistants to collect and arrange them in chronological order. He compiled, at the same time, a manuscript book, containing extracts from the earlier *ordinances* and regulations by which the Company were governed, a few lists of the names of the original members, and some portions of the City charters, but he made no attempt at a history of the Company. I ought to state, that the service he rendered in making the above compilation, is in great measure neutralized by the irreparable injury he has inflicted on the first volume of the records, (written partly in Norman French and partly in old English), by transcribing on its margins his own modern version of the text.

Since I was first enrolled as a Liveryman of this ancient Society, I have constantly lamented the want of a history, which could make the members acquainted with their origin, as well as with the principal events in which the Grocers' Company have been engaged since their formation into a corporate body, and render them familiar with the lives and actions of those distinguished and illustrious personages whose names are inscribed on the records.

During the year I had the honour of presiding as Master of the Company, it became a part of my duty to inspect the journals with the view of confirming the correctness of the list of those Lord Mayors of London who had been members of the Company, and whose coats of arms were destined to adorn the Court-room at Grocers' Hall. In the course of my researches, I discovered materials which, if carefully digested and arranged, would furnish all the information required, and I perceived a series of names calculated to shed the brightest lustre on the City of London. Urged on by this discovery, I formed a plan for devoting my leisure hours to the arrangement of a History of the Company which I proposed to divide into three parts; first, an Account of the Hall itself, and of the principal events of which it has been the scene; secondly, a brief History of the Company; and lastly, Biographical Sketches of its most Eminent and Distinguished Members. The latter portion of the work increased upon me so much as I advanced, that it became necessary to select the most distinguished names for the prosecution of my purpose, and simply to register the others; for, had I done justice to all the individuals whose names grace the Grocers' list of Lord Mayors, I could have collected materials for another volume. As I proceeded, I found that the various specimens of early Wardens' accounts, of the details respecting the Irish Estate, &c. if incorporated in the narrative would impede the regularity of its course, and, therefore, I preferred adding a fourth part to the work, in the shape of an Appendix, in which they all appear in chronological order.

In the composition of this work I do not presume to lay claim to much original matter; the records have furnished me with the substance of my *Account of the Company*, and I had only in addition to search for collateral information to illustrate certain points which, otherwise, would have been obscure. The Histories of England, of London, and the old Chronicles furnished me with all I sought; and, for the Biography, I had recourse to County Histories, to the Journals of both Houses of Parliament, to records in the public offices, and to old tracts.

I now lay the work before my brethren of the Company, and should it have the good fortune to receive their approbation, I shall esteem the time I devoted to its composition as having been well employed, and hold myself amply rewarded for the labour I have bestowed upon it.

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THE WORSHIPFUL

# COMPANY OF GROCERS.

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## THE HALL.

“ If any think those Halls were built merely for feasting and entertainment (or at the most but for pompe) they are much deceived. Certainly they were both intended and improved to higher and better uses.”—*Rolle's Burning of London, 1667*, part iii. p. 55.

BEFORE I proceed to the history of this most ancient and honourable Company, it will not, I imagine, be deemed superfluous that I should make a few observations respecting the locality now occupied by the Grocers' Hall, and detail, briefly, the principal events of which it has been the scene. The earlier part of the subject is necessarily involved in some obscurity; but I have reason to believe, considering the sources from which I have derived my information, that the following narrative may be relied upon.

The first trace discoverable in the early records is that of The Site, a synagogue, which, before the expulsion of the Jews from England, in 1291, occupied a portion of the site of the present Hall, and which, after that event, was obtained and converted into a chapel by a religious society, called

\* *Fratres de Saccâ*, or *de penitentiâ Jesu Christi*, or, in the familiar phraseology of the time, *the Brethren of the Sack*. These friars, so named from wearing sackcloth, subsisted, like the Capuchins of the order of St. Francis, extant to this day in Italy and in Spain, entirely by begging.

They first came to London A.D. 1257, and settled without Aldersgate ; but King Henry III. in the 56th year of his reign, gave them the Jews' Synagogue on the south side of Lothbury, where they continued until their order was dissolved by the council of Lyons, A.D. 1307. It was there decreed “ that the mendicants should not receive into “ their order any others save the Preachers, Minors, and “ Carmelites ; but that they had license to enter into reli-“ gions or societies of larger rule.” From this time forth all mendicant friars began to decrease, and, except the preaching friars, were in a short time brought to nothing.

The brethren above mentioned purchased the capital mansion of John Le Rus, opposite the chapel of St. Edmund ; but “ because that messuage was of the fee of the “ Canons of Barnwell, prior John of Barnwell hindered “ their being put into possession ; on which John Le Rus, “ with the Brethren of the Sack, came to the said prior “ and, on his request, obtained permission of the said John “ for them to have it.”

In the reign of Henry III. the Lord Fitzwalter, † hereditary chastellain banneret, or standard-bearer of London, then residing at Baynard's Castle, prayed the king that the Brethren of the Sack might assign the said chapel to him ; or, in plainer terms, that they might be expelled from it. The family mansion of the Lord Fitzwalter, ‡ it appears,

\* “ Eodem tempore novus ordo apparuit Londini de quibusdam fra-“ tribus ignotis et non prævisis, quia saccis incedebant induiti, *Fratres*“ *Sacci* vocabantur.”—*Matthew Paris*, 1257.

† *Stowe*, edit. 1633, p. 288. *Newcourt*, p. 516. *Tanner*, p. 316.

‡ Fitzwalter's house, in Coneyhope-lane, seems to have been the same as is mentioned under the name of the *stone house*, in the Jewry, which in the reign of King John belonged to Heredei, the Jew, and was first granted by that monarch to William Earl of Surrey, the title of which grant is in the Calendar of the Charter-rolls in the Tower.

joined this building, the possession of which was considered as convenient to him, and therefore, as the chronicles state, “ the request was granted ; but on the condition that he “ should maintain two chaplains for the daily performance “ of divine service.”\*

In the year 1411, during the reign of Henry V. a descendant of the said lord sold the chapel to the Grocers’ Company for the sum of 320 marks, and, in the subsequent reign, the family mansion also became the property of the Company, who, having borrowed great sums of money for the purpose, built their hall upon its site.

Pennant and other writers affirm that this house, after being used as the residence of sundry chief magistrates of London, who kept their mayoralties there, degenerated into an inn, † known in the time of Ben Jonson as *the Windmill Inn, in the Old Jewry*, and celebrated by him ‡ as the favourite resort of the roisters and “ master-spirits” of those days.

“ Revellers, whose lawless joy  
“ Pains the sage ear and hurts the sober eye.” ||

The precise identity of the spot is difficult to establish, but it is certain that the ground occupied by *the Windmill* became, and is still, the property of the Grocers’ Company. The fact itself is of little importance, and any further inquiry respecting it would be attended with no satisfactory result. Every trace of *the Windmill* has long since disappeared, its orgies are remembered only in the pages of the dramatist, and the voice of riot and debauchery, which

\* In the original the grant is worded as follows :—“ Quod possint “ dare capellam suam in Coleman Strete, quæ dudum fuit synagoga “ Iudeorum, Roberto filio Walteri, ita quod inveniat duos capellanos “ divina singulis diebus celebraturos.”—*Pat. 33. edit. 1. p. 1. m. 16.*  
vol. xvii.

† “ This place, first a synagogue, then a friery, then a nobleman’s house, then a merchant’s house wherein mayoralties were kept, and at last a tavern.”—*Archæologia*, vol. iii. p. 125.

‡ See the comedy of “ Every Man in his Humour.”

|| Pope’s *Odyssey*.

once filled its chambers, is silent, and has given place to the more sober festivity which the hospitality of the Company occasionally calls forth at the Hall.

The Hall. The first founding and building of Grocers' Hall took place in the year 1427, and, as the details are preserved in the Company's records, I insert them verbatim.

“ John de Wellys, Alderman and governour, John Mel-  
“ bourne . John Olyve . Maistres.

“ REMEMBRANCE—that in here (their) tyme, that is  
“ to wite the viij dai of Mai in the yeere of our Lord  
“ M.CCCC.XXVIJ—was the furste stoon leyd of the Gro-  
“ ceres Place in Conyhoope-lane\* in the Warde of Chepe,  
“ ther being present our worshipfull Aldermen Thomas  
“ Knolles, William Cambrigge, John de Wellys, Rogere  
“ Otely and maney othir, and frō the seide viij dai of May  
“ unto the day of here accounte (that is to witen the v  
“ day of Juyn next followyng) was maade the foundement  
“ of the West gabylende of the Halle, with the ground,  
“ which coste as it followeth; The wich be here ac-  
“ counte to,

	£
“ For iwritten .....	Sm. <sup>to</sup> 77 8 7
“ Alsoe payd in the same yeere for the “ purchase of y <sup>e</sup> place .....	214 6 8
“ Sm. <sup>to</sup> ....	290 15 3.”

Then follows a list of sixty-three names of persons, with the amounts contributed by them towards the building ; among them is

“ William Sevenoke .....	£6 13 4
“ & of diverse persones ikallyd <i>Bacheleris</i> }	9 13 4”
“ to the glazying of the parlore ...	}

\* “ Grocers' Alley was of old tyme called ‘ Coney-hope lane,’ of the sign of three coneyes which hung over a poultreter's stall at the lane's end ; within this lane standeth the Grocers' Hall.”—*Stowe's Survey of London*.

In 1428 is another entry in the books to declare the completion of the Hall; it is thus worded:—

“ In the name of Jhū. Will.<sup>am</sup> Cambrigge Alderman  
“ and Governour. Will.<sup>am</sup> Wetenhale and John Godyn—  
“ Maistres.

“ REMEMBRANCE that in here tyme, that is to wite,  
“ frō the v<sup>th</sup> day of Juin in the yeer of our Loord Jhū  
“ M.CCCC.XX.VIJ unto the vij dai of Juillij M.CCCC.XX.VIIJ  
“ was alle the foundement of the Halle fully imade, except  
“ the foundement of the west gabill ende as it apperith in  
“ John Chyle and Melbourne' tyme. Alsoe in the seide  
“ Will.<sup>am</sup> Wetenhalle and John Godyn tyme, alle the dores  
“ in the halle fully maad, set up and iclosid. Itm. the  
“ walle atte seid west gabilende was maad x fote in  
“ heyghte above the watir table; alsoe the walle atte est  
“ gabill ende was maad ix fote and a half above the seide  
“ water table in heyghte. Alsoe the walle on the north  
“ syde atte parlore ende xxviij fote in lengthe, was  
“ maad to the fulle length that is to wite xxvij fote  
“ above the seide watir-table, with the dore into the  
“ parlore and ij wyndowes into the chapele and alle  
“ the remenant of the seide walle was maade x fote in  
“ heighte above the seide watir-table. Alsoe the cres-  
“ table on the seide north syde of the halle was maad and  
“ layd on.”

“ Alsoe the walle on the south syde joynyng to the  
“ south dore was maad xxij fote in length and v fote in  
“ heyghte above the seide watir-table and so from them ys  
“ xlviij fote in length unto the west gabill ende is the  
“ seide walle maade unto the watir-table and the said  
“ watir-table ilaid on. Alsoe the foundement of the boterye  
“ and pantrye was take and maad; alsoe in the seyde yeer  
“ was beginne and full maade the foundement of the par-  
“ lore and chambre with the \*vawte, chemeneys & previes  
“ and the seide parlore and the tresance lattizid, glazid  
“ and selyd with othir necessariis as it aperith, wich coste

\* Vault.

“ in here tymes, as it aperith pleynely be here aconte, as  
“ followyth—

“ Sm.<sup>to</sup>..... £508. 10”

The following are a few of the items paid by the fellowship of Grocers towards the building; they are curious, inasmuch as they show the great difference between the prices of that period and those of our own times :—

“ For chalke and stoon and cartage ...	£18	11	5
“ For lyme .....	22	4	8½
“ sande and loom.....	10	6	6
“ Mason’s weages with maistre mason’s			
“ rewarde .....	5	9	2
“ Tymber with the coste and cariage ..	48	5	6
“ Carpenter’s weages with the maistre			
“ carpenter’s reward.....	59	8	4½
“ Makyng of the celour, the batements			
“ & kervying of the keyys in the			
“ parlore and tresance withouten			
“ and in the baye wyndowe of the			
“ chambre with werie boards and			
“ lattices in the seyde parlore and			
“ chambre.....	10	8	8
“ To dawbers .....	2	18	3
“ For expences and costis maad on oure			
“ gardyne .....	1	0	0
“ Payde for the new vynes that is sette			
“ byfore the parlore wyndours....	0	13	4
“ Unwroughte Stapylton stoone; reidy			
“ hewe for the saame for wyndowes,			
“ wyndow jambes and sills. Cres-			
“ table mesth. <sup>a</sup> in stoon hewn for			
“ the sowth syde of the halle, ashler,			
“ coyne, skew ragge, chalke, fluit-			
“ tyles and estriche boarde .....	32	2	11
“ For costages of the gardyne 4s. 8d.			
“ and by the hand of John Godyn			

“ for makynge of the Erber,\* carv-  
 “ yng newe rayling off alle the  
 “ vynes and gardyne ..... £ 8 8 7”

The finishing of the Hall appears to have been celebrated by a dinner ; for, under date of the 5th February, 1428, is found the following entry,

“ For the fyrste dynner imade in the  
 “ parlore to oure Aldermen and othir  
 “ many worthie men of the felli-  
 “ shipp”..... £ 5 6 8

Five years afterwards, in 1433, the Company increased their property about the Hall, as, it seems, they paid for “ the purchasyng the remaynder of the voide grounde, “ sumtyme the Lord Fitzwalter’s Halle, £31 . 17 . 8,” and with it enlarged their garden. I find, on examination of the accounts of expenditure, that they took great pleasure in their garden, on the cultivation and adornment of which they spent considerable sums : the item of “ costys at our “ gardyns” is of yearly occurrence ; and, no doubt, it was kept in a perfect state, for, to the beginning of the seventeenth century, it was resorted to by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and, indeed, by the citizens at large, as a place of recreation.† It is described as containing alleys, hedge-rows, and a bowling-alley, with an ancient tower, of stone and brick at the north-west corner, which, probably, was part of the mansion of the Fitzwalters, and, in that case, was the oldest building within the walls of the city.‡ There must have been some pecuniary advantages derivable from the custody of the garden ; for, in the month of April, 1574, “ Thomas Hervey, our clerk,” say the Ordinances, “ was humble suitor to have the keepinge of the garden ;

The  
Garden.

\* Arbour.

† Malcolm’s History of London.

‡ Northouck’s History of London.

“ whose suit being considered of, hoping that he will keep  
“ it in better order than of late it hath been, finding all  
“ plants, seeds, powles, and other things thereto belong-  
“ ing, it is agreed that he shall have the accustomed  
“ stipend for keepinge of the same, which is £3. 6. 8,  
“ upon condycyon that he shall not suffer any common  
“ bowling there, but only for brothers of the Companie  
“ and foure or five ancient neyghbors dwellyng in the  
“ Powlterie.”

The clerk, however, does not appear to have attended much to this caution; for, in 1584, his negligence called forth the following remonstrance; “ The Court being informed that the clerk of the Companie did suffer to play at cards and tables in the tower, and alsoe in his owne house, which was not thought good or convenient to be any longer suffered or permitted, he was charged thenceforth not to suffer such like playing, unlesse upon the stone in the garden, but in no secret place, & that no man should bowl in the garden unlesse of the Companie or some of the honest & ancient neighbours dwelling near about, and no common bowling to be permitted in any wise.”

My conjecture of some pecuniary advantage accraining from the garden to the officers of the Company is founded on the following passage, inserted in the books in July, 1601; “ The keepinge of the garden being most freely and lovingly granted to Richard Gough, clerk of this Companie, *with all fees, herbes, and profits thereunto belonginge*, reservinge onlie to Richard Tomkins, the beadle, the keepinge of the bowling alley with the benefit thereof during pleasure, on the condition that he suffer no other companie to repair theretoe but brothers of the Companie and neighbours of honest reputation within the parish, whereby the garden may not be damnified nor any disorder had, and after his death to return to the clerk as heretofore.”

The garden remained unchanged until 1798, when the present Hall was commenced; its dimensions were then

contracted by the increased size of the buildings, and a still further alteration took place in 1802, when the Bank of England was extended to its present boundaries to the east of Prince's Street. The new carriage-entrance opened in this street in 1827, during the Mastership of Frederick Benjamin King, Esq. has procured for the Company a facility of ingress and egress, the want of which had been felt for many years.

Among other appendages attached to the Hall was an *The Ar-moury.* armoury, regularly supplied with weapons offensive and defensive, and which seems to have been resorted to by the city authorities in all cases of actual or apprehended tumult. The period of its first establishment does not appear in the books; for, although the earliest notice of it is in 1558, it is clearly demonstrated that it had existed some time before. Under date of the 24th August of that year, is an entry, shewing that "John Edwyn, armourer, had a " grante of 13*s. 4d.* yeerly from the Companie for kepinge " of the harnesse and other thinges in the armorye made " unto him the 26 daie of April 1555, and having since " well and honestlie kept the said armorye in good order " and readynesse whenever it might be required, it was " agreeede, on accounte of the armes in the said armorye " being more than it was when said wages were graunted, " that the said Edwyn should have 12*d.* a daie for every " daie's worke he should doe in byrnyrshing and dressyng " of alle the harnesse then remaining in the house, over " and above the 13*s. 4d.*" Besides the arms and *harnesses*, the Company was at times called upon to furnish ammunition and even men, both for military and naval service, as appears by the following extracts:—"In July 1557, the " Wardens were to provide 60 good, sadd and hable " men to be souldgears, whereof 2 to be horsemen, well " horsed and armyd, 20 of them to be harquebusiers or " archers, 20 to bear pykes, and 18 to be billmen, all " well harnyshed and weponed, mete and convenient, " accordyng to the appoyntment of our Soveraine Lorde

“ and Ladye the King’s and Queene’s Majestie ; as well  
 “ for the securitie of the Queene’s highness’ most royal  
 “ person, as for the suretie and safeguarde of their high-  
 “ nesse’s chambre and citie of London and the resistaunce  
 “ of such malitious attempts as may happen to be made  
 “ against the same by anny foraigne enemie.”

In 1562, a precept from the Lord Mayor directs  
 “ xxxv good, apte and talle personnes to be soulde gears,  
 “ xxiv of whom to be armed with corselettes and wea-  
 “ poned with pykes or bills.” Another, in 1569, orders  
 60 men “ of honeste behavioure” to be provided to serve  
 the Queen, “ each to be well and sufficiently furnyshed  
 “ with a jerkyn and a paire of galley slopps of erode  
 “ clothe, calyver matches with flaskes, a morion, a sworde  
 “ and a dagger, and every of them to be paid 8d. for  
 “ presse money to marche against the rebels in the northe.”

Deposit of  
gunpow-  
der.

Shortly after, it was thought necessary that a store of gunpowder should be kept by the different Companies in London, to be in readiness in case of need ; and, accordingly, on the 7th of June, 1574, the Lord Mayor, in pursuance of an order received from the Queen’s Council, signified, “ that certaine provysion of gunpowder should “ be made, to remain within the citie, as well for the “ better defence thereof in times of peryl and daunger, “ as well as for present service of the same, if need re- “ quired ; that this and the other Companies should, after “ the rateable and proportionable allotment, provide their “ shares thereof; the same to be kept in their owne hawls “ or other convenient places, vizt. 14 fyrdyns of the gun- “ powder called corne powder, every fyrdyn to contayne “ 60 pounds nett, at the least, and soe much more as “ should be thought goode by them.”

The only contribution made to Queen Elizabeth’s *navy* appears under date of June 1578; and, I am afraid, a little violence and compulsion were resorted to on the occasion, for I find the order “ to provide 15 men for her “ Majestic’s shippes,” followed by the entry of a payment

“ to the city chamber of £8.19.4 for 15 blew cotes made  
 “ for the 15 men which were pressed by this Companie,  
 “ to serve in the Queen’s Majestie’s shippes.”

Entries relating to the keeping up the armoury, the loan of arms to the city, and the stock of gunpowder, are continued in the records from time to time till the great fire of London in 1666, when all mention respecting them ceases. So much importance was attached to the powder being kept in good order that it was occasionally sold, and replaced by fresh. In July 1609, part of the stock of gunpowder was disposed of, to prevent spoiling, at the price of £3 per cwt. and the Company credited for the produce, which was £20.5.6. In January 1650, the removal of the powder from the turret was resolved upon by the Court, in consequence “ of the lamentable accident “ which latelie happened;” and it was placed in some more remote part of the building. The accident alluded to was the explosion of 27 barrels of powder at a ship-chandler’s in Tower-street, which blew up 60 houses, with their inhabitants, and caused an enormous destruction of property, as well as of human life.\*

The favourable situation of Grocers’ Hall, being in the very centre of the city, rendered it a most eligible place for holding meetings and assemblies, and the Company availed themselves of the advantage. It was frequently let for festivals, as I find an entry in 1564 setting forth that “ Mr. Mallorie, sonne to the Lord Mayor, and others, “ praied the Wardens to have the use of the common “ hall, parlore, and kitchyn of Grocers’ Hall, on Fryday “ 9 februarye, to make a supper to divers gentlemen of “ Gray’s Inne, for the great amitie betweene them and “ the Middle Temple gents,” which was agreed to; the same not to be taken as a precedent hereafter. In the course of time, some abuses appear to have arisen in this system of letting, for, in 1649, it was ordered “ that,

The Hall  
let for festi-  
vitals, &c.

\* Maitland’s History of London, vol. i. p. 420.

" for the future, the Company's Hall shall not be lent or  
 " made use of by strangers for burials, country feasts, and  
 " the like, without leave of the Wardens;" and, in 1678,  
 the Company's officers made a formal complaint that,  
 though they had the care and responsibility of the Hall  
 and its appurtenances when it was let to strangers for  
 dinners, funerals, country feasts, or weddings, they were  
 oftentimes excluded; whereupon it was ordered that, " in  
 " future, the Hall is never to be let for such purposes,  
 " unless the officers are retained and employed." The  
 amount of consideration required by the Company on these  
 occasions does not appear; but I should imagine it to have  
 been very moderate, because the whole interior of the  
 Hall was, for many years, in a rude state.

**The Hall improved.** The apartments in the Hall were not wainscoted until the year 1591, and the undertaking was deemed so important, that, after mature deliberation, the Wardens were ordered " to confer with a joynere of abilitie and a skilfull workeman how the same may be conveniently wainscoted upon the view and sight of good and convenient patterns;" this was afterwards done under the direction of one Stickells, who was " to oversee the worke at the weages of 20*d.* a daie, his two chiefe workmen 18*d.* and the rest 16*d.* a daie, and two boys 8*d.* a daie." The great parlour was not boarded until 1631, up to which time, it had been strewed with rushes, according to the old English fashion. On the 2d September in that year, the Court, " takyng into consideracyon the inconveniencie and noysomeness of the rushes in the parlore, especiallye in the sumer time, and alsoe how subject they were to the greate daunger of fyre in the wyntere," ordered that the Wardens should send for workmen, and take care that the same parlour should be well and sufficiently boarded " with all convenient speede;" and that three dozen of chairs, " beinge of the best Raushe leathere," for the furnishing the said room, should be provided. I should add, in futher illustration of my idea respecting the

**Fittings & furniture.**

ill state of the Hall, and its want of every kind of accommodation, that a formal resolution was passed in 1575, in consequence of the Court “ beinge put in remembraunce “ by the Wardens of the lacke of napery that is in this “ house,” to enable the said Wardens to incur the serious expense of providing “ one table clothe of damaske and “ two table clothes of diapere, together with napekins, “ as they shall thinke needfull.” There was, besides, to be provided “ a new herseclothe of velvet, fayre and em-“ broydered with the Companie’s armes and other gode “ thynges.” To what object of utility or ornament this *herseclothe* was applied, I can form no idea, unless it was used at the funerals of members.

It is consolatory, however, to know that the great officers of state, at the early period I allude to, were as scantily provided, in their domestic arrangements, as the Grocers’ Company; this is shewn to demonstration by a note in the books, dated January 1583, which sets forth, that “ the two long tables in the parlour, with the tressels “ and table-cloth belonging to them, were lent to the “ Chancellor,\* at his request, for the celebration of the “ marriage of his daughter.” It is evident the Court of Chancery, in Queen Elizabeth’s time, was not so fruitful a source of revenue as it is at present. Let the reader imagine my Lord Lyndhurst borrowing an oak table and table-cloth for the marriage of his daughter! *Horresco referens!*

The first member of the Company who gave the example of liberality towards the embellishment of Grocers’ Hall was Sir Stephen Soame: he had been Master of the Company, and had served the office of Lord Mayor in 1598. In October 1617, it was recorded that “ the offere “ of Sir Stephen Soame to new ciel the Hall, though it “ should cost him £500, is thankefullie and lovynglie “ accepted by the Courte and Companie;” and £20 was ordered to be contributed towards it by the Wardens.

Sir Steph.  
Soame.

\* Sir Thomas Bromley.

The work was completed, and Sir Stephen, having magnanimously refused the Company's £20, received a strong vote of thanks for his generosity: the details of this transaction will be found in the biographical sketch of this worthy citizen.

Committee  
of Safety.

In 1641, when the forced adjournment of the House of Commons took place, in consequence of the unguarded attack upon its privileges by Charles I., a grand Committee of Safety was appointed to watch over the interests of the nation; or, in plainer terms, to conduct the inflammatory business of the times.\* This body, which was commissioned to hold its sittings in the Guildhall, not finding that a convenient place, by reason of the multiplicity of the city affairs, adjourned to Grocers' Hall, where they, "pretending fears," says Lord Clarendon, "for the safety of the friends of liberty; and feeling, in reality, a dread of the moderate men who had been pointed out to the mob, as the enemies of their country, appointed a sub-committee to draw up certain heads for their safe return to Westminster on the Tuesday following; and who resolved that the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex should raise the *posse comitatus*, to guard the King and Parliament for that day."

This Committee, although it occasionally held its meetings at the halls of other companies, continued to sit at Grocers' Hall, at intervals, for several years after. In the "*Perfect Diurnal*," a newspaper published at the time, I find a notice, dated the 8th April 1644, which states that "both Houses adjourned till Saturday, and appointed to-morrow to sit in Grand Committee at Grocers' Hall, London, to hasten businesse for the advance of the armies;" and, on the day following, that "the Committee of both kingdoms, and the several Committees appointed to sit at Grocers' Hall, and to meet about the militia, made a report to the House in what forwardnesse the forces were that are appointed to be at

\* Maitland's History of London, and the other historians.

“ the rendezvous : that the Earle of Manchester hath  
 “ signified he will not faile to be at the rendezvous in  
 “ person, with horse and foot, and that his horse are on  
 “ their march accordingly towards Bedford.”

In 1648, that year so disgraceful to the English Annals, during which Charles I. was beheaded, General Fairfax, Commander of the Parliament Army, arbitrarily levied a sum of £40,000 on the city, towards the payment and maintenance of his soldiers.\* A demur taking place in the raising of this sum, and symptoms of discontent having manifested themselves about the same time on other accounts, the general ordered two regiments of foot and several troops of horse to march into the city to hasten the collection of the money. Under date of the 21st December in that year, the Court of the Grocers' Company were informed “ that a quarter-master had been to view the “ hall for the taking up of quarters for the soldiers of the “ army.” A petition against this intrusion was instantly prepared and forwarded to Sir Thomas Fairfax, and, in the mean while, the Company's plate and papers were ordered to be moved to a place of safety, under the care of the Wardens. The Company had been drained of the greatest part of their money during the reign of Charles I. and indeed, I may add, during several of the preceding reigns : whether this fact or the petition of the Company proved most efficacious, I do not know, but I find no record of their having been harassed on this occasion : their neighbours were less fortunate, for, after the troops had quartered at Blackfryars, and in the neighbourhood, they proceeded, by order, to secure the treasures of the Weavers', Haberdashers', and Goldsmiths' Halls, from the first of which they took £20,000.† This proceeding was endeavoured to be justified in an artful letter from the General to Sir John Warner, the Lord Mayor, who, by the way, was a Grocer, and, on that account, perhaps, influential with Sir

Attempted  
intrusion of  
troops.

\* Rushworth's Col. vol. iv. p. 2.

† Maitland's History of London, vol. i.

Thomas in saving the Hall from the pollution which impended over it.

Feast to  
Cromwell  
and  
Fairfax.

In the following year, a grand entertainment was given at Grocers' Hall, by the Corporation, to Cromwell and Fairfax, who had returned in triumph to London after the surprise at Northampton, of the mutinous regiments which had refused to go to Ireland. Fairfax was presented with a basin and ewer of pure gold, and Cromwell with £300 worth of plate and 200 pieces of gold, and “great rejoicing there was, and smiling too, at this the ‘cities kindness.’”\* The sentiment of the citizens on this occasion were manifested in a variety of ways ; murmurs, “not loud, but deep,” were uttered, and, as is usual in all cases where the public mind is excited, lampoons and pasquinades issued from the press in abundance. One publication, in particular, excited great attention and some merriment ; it ranks above those passing trifles which are read with avidity at the moment and afterwards forgotten. At the entertainment before alluded to, many speeches of compliment and congratulations to the generals were made, and a deal of what Casca, † more forcibly than elegantly calls “stinking breath,” uttered by the republicans. It is a parody on these speeches that composes the little work referred to, and more keen and cutting satire was never committed to paper : as the scene is laid at Grocers' Hall, and as the matter is short, I cannot resist giving it here, verbatim, as I found it in Lord Somers's tracts.‡

\* Heath's Chronicle.

† Julius Cæsar.

‡ First Collection, vol. i. p. 212.

**" Grocers' Hall,**

" *HOSANNA; or, a Song of Thanksgiving sung by the Chil- Speeches.  
dred of Zion;* and set forth in three notable Speeches, at  
**GROCERS' HALL**, on the late Solemn day of Thanksgiving,  
Thursday, June 7, 1649. The first was spoken by Alderman  
*Atkins.* The second by Alderman *Isaac Pennington.* The third  
by *Hugh Peters* (no Alderman but) *Clericus in Cuerpo.*

" *Risum teneatis Amici.*

**" ALDERMAN ATKINS, his Speech before Dinner to the  
SPEAKER, the GENERAL, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL,  
and Lord President BRADSHAW, at Grocers' Hall,  
Thursday, June 7.**

" **MR. SPEAKER,**

" OH, this is a blessed day, Mr. Speaker, and marvellous in our eyes, to see you become our Supreme Head and Governor, now that we have cut off the King's head: and, as I take it, it is one main reason of this heavenly thanksgiving to my Lord Lieutenant-General and Mr. General's Excellency, for their great pains in the business: verily, Mr. Speaker, I cannot choose but weep for joy to think on't; and yet I cannot tell you for what, though I shall tell you by and by.—In the meantime—(prythee, Mr. Steward, set aside a couple of custards and a tart for my wife).—In the meantime, I say, I see no reason but why I may cry as well as baul. I say, Sir, I can baul as well as my Lord of Pembroke here, or any man else; my mouth was made for bauling; and I think you all know it well enough in the house upon occasion. For you may remember, Mr. Speaker, how I bauld at the apprentices, two years since, when the House of Commons had like to have gone to wrack like a bawdy house. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, then, for you looked as white as the driven custard, and had neither tongue, nor eyes, nor ears, nor nose, nor brains, nor any thing else, but were in the same pickle as when the King came to demand the *five members.* I wonder he did not smell me out too for a traytor; for I had my breeches full

on't then, as I had half a year before in Finsbury, at the general muster of the New Militia,\* at which time, I say, Sir, I was one of the City Colonels, and came off cleanly, though I say it; for, being wounded in the belly, I retreated home; and, having asked counsel of a surgeon, the malignant knave would not undertake me; and so the state might have lost a servant for want of plaster, but that my kitchen wench made a shift to cure me with a dish-clout.

" But having scap'd this scouring, Mr. Speaker, and liv'd to see this glorious day, now let us sing the Song of Old Simeon, and depart in peace; but first, let's have our bellies fulls. O, Death, I defy thee, for here's a good dinner coming in, twelve bucks out of Eltham-park, besides those of the City; not a Presbyterian bit, I promise you; therefore, sit down, gentlemen, and eat lustily; I promise you it's well season'd, I'll pass my word for the cooks; for I was one of the committee that examined them, every man to their oaths, to forswear ratsbane, mercury, and monarchy.† Besides, here's my Lord President hath brought a dozen *tasters* along with him: I hope he will lend us some of them. And now, Mr. Speaker, you are welcome; in the name of my brethren representatives of the City, I bid you heartily welcome; you may eat, drink, and be merry, for you have laid up goods for many years; and now you are laying up the king's goods; more sacks to the mill still. Sit down, Mr. Speaker, you are a good old Speaker; you are the representative of the Supreme authority. It was the pope's first, next it was the king's, and now it is yours, thank the army! How daintily things are come about, Mr. Speaker, as well as you and I! For as

\* Some scandalous tale of this kind was probably circulated respecting this Alderman, which occasioned the filthy nick name given to him in a very scarce tract, in the Guildhall Library, of which the following is the title:—"Reverend Alderman Atkins (The S—t B—h), his speech, to Mr. Warner, the venerable Mayor of London, the wise Aldermen, and most judicious Common Councilmen, in relation to present affairs," &c. 4to. London, 1618.

† Every cook was sworn.

I take it, you and I, and many more here have been at all thanksgivings these seven years. We have waited upon his old Excellency, Essex, and the Admiral Warwick, and sung psalms with the assembly men here over and over. And now those black birds are all flown, and out of tune ; here's not a man of them but Thomas Goodwin, and he is every jot as honest a man as his name sake John : for neither of them cares much for saying grace. Therefore, sit down, Mr. Speaker; we have his new Excellency here now, and General Cromwell's honour, that cares as little as they. Indeed, you must sit down first, and my Lord Mayor next ; for the Army I'm sure made us vote it so ; and that the City sword should be yielded up to you to make a thanksgiving trencher-knife : and so you were as good a man as the king, and a better than my Lord Mayor ; and so you might have been still, had you not given him his sword again ; for you lose your place in yielding up the sword, and leave the supreme authority in my Lord Mayor and the army. Howsoever, sit still, Sir,—I hope the General will not oppose the votes of the House, now that it is the army's own House, but let them pass, an't be but for fashion's sake ; and, therefore, Mr. Speaker, for fashion sake, you may sit uppermost ; and next to you, my Lord Mayor.

“ I think too, for fashion's sake, my Lord General, your Excellency may sit down next. I would be loth to displease Mr. Lieutenant-General's honour ; I hope he will not be angry at your Excellency, nor me ; I could wish you had voted all your places before you came here ; but your Excellency may sit, I suppose, for Mr. Lieutenant-General looks as if he gave you leave ; on my conscience that's a meek humble soul, and will take some other time to set you beside the saddle.

“ And for you, my Lord President, I should have placed you uppermost, for I know none so fit to have represented the supreme authority as you that commanded the cutting off that head of it : O, how this scarlet gown becomes your honour ! It suits exceedingly well with mine

and my Lord Mayor's; for you sentenced the old king as a traytor, and we have proclaimed the young king to be no king, and a traitor when we catch him. It was a dangerous piece of work, indeed; and I was afraid, as you are, of following Dr. Dorislaus; the people did so threaten, as if they would have torn us for the very rags of authority, and cried up Charles the Second louder than we could cry him down. I think the rest of my brethren carried it little better than myself; for my guts began to crow after their old tune, and wrought like bottle-beer, insomuch that I wished for Colonel Pride to stop the bunghole, till the troopers relieved us.

" But now, my good Lord President, let's comfort one another; and though you deserve to be uppermost, yet sit down, and be content with your place. For fashion's sake, Mr. Lieutenant-General's honour is content to let it be so, till he finds it convenient to turn you off, as well as his Excellency. Pray take it not ill that I whisper this in your ear; for, now that he hath made you serve his ends, he cares not so he were rid of you, since you may serve them all as you did the king, in a new High Court of Justice, because you are pleased to let it be so.

" The next place, Mr. Lieutenant-General, must needs be yours. By his Excellency's leave, you are the *saviour of the three kingdoms*. You are he that hath filled our hearts this day with thanksgiving and gladness. You trained the king into a snare at Carisbroke Castle, and fooled and routed all his party. You set up a *High Court* to cut him off, and you lie at catch for his *son*. You have made us a commonwealth, that is (as malignants say) you have given us power to put a finger into every man's purse and pocket. You have made the people the supreme authority, and left them no laws. And well done, Sir! for what should we do with any law but the sword? or what law like liberty of conscience and power met together? You it is that led his Excellency by the nose like a bear, and at last will bring him to the stake. You have new moulded the city. You are the joy of our hearts, the light

of our eyes, and the breath of our nostrils, though cavaliers call you the cut-throat of our lives and liberties ; for all which we set this day apart to give thanks to God, and a dinner to you, and somewhat else into the bargain, as you shall see after dinner. In the meantime fall to ; a short life and a merry (may it please your honour), a short life and a merry ; and so give me leave to conclude heartily with part of the Lord's Prayer (though I do not use it) ' thy kingdom come ;' or, as the thief did upon the cross, ' Remember me when thou comest into thy kindom ;' and I promise you faithfully I will never b——e the palace."

*" ALDERMAN ISAAC PENNINGTON'S Speech at the presenting of the Golden Bason and Ewer unto the General, with Plate of £300 value, and £200 in Gold to the Lieutenant-General.*

" Give ear, O heavens ! and regard, O earth ! May it please your Excellency to open your mouth wide, and I shall fill it. I, Isaac Pennington, Alderman of London, confess myself altogether unable to speak the praises due unto yourself, Mr. Lieutenant-General, and all the faithful officers and soldiers of your army. Yet why should I hold my peace ? . I will speak, though I cannot speak : and though I cannot speak, I will not keep silence. Some have been so bold as to brand me for a *crack't vessel*, yet I have been meet for my master's use ; and they shall find me as sounding brass, or as a tinkling cymbal. Moses was a man slow of speech, yet he was a great leader ; and so have I been, and so is your Excellency. But as for Mr. Lieutenant-General, though he be such a one too, yet he hath the tongues of men and angels so much at his devotion, that the very noise of them drowns the fame of your Excellency, and swallows up your senses.

" For my part, I bless God exceedingly for you both, for all your labour of love in gunpowder and gospel, and

carrying on that glorious work of reformation, which, though it began in desperation, yet you have brought it into perfection. Henceforth, therefore, all generations shall call *you* blessed, and *me* no madman, though I have been as mad as any of you all; and yet I think I am fit enough to deliver the sense of the city, who by me returns you thanks for the great pains you have taken in purging the malignant Presbyterians out of the Common Council as well as the House, by which means you made shift to new-model the city, as you did the army, turning out all that were not of your own temper; so that we are all now of one soul and one mind, and lay all things in common for the use of the state, but what is our own.

“ Add to these things your borrowing money of the city and never repaying it again; your breaking all their privileges and putting daily affronts upon them; your impressing, firing, assessing, taxing, excising, free quartering, and fleecing all their fellows; your conquering them by treachery, and riding through their streets in triumph; your overawing them by the military power, and destroying their trade by land, and traffic by sea; for all which inexpressible favours, with the extirpation of Presbytery, and the suppressing of the Levellers, they conceive themselves bound to return an acknowledgment, and rejoice in the opportunity of dedicating this day of thanksgiving unto you and your bellies.

“ But, since man lives not by bread only, by killing of kings and loyal subjects, and seizing on their goods and estates, and turning them into money; since gold is the only goddess of this Reformation, and the Saints cannot establish their kingdom without it; since your Excellency and your Lieutenant-General guardian have vouchsafed us this favour of a visit, which you denied to the Presbyters, we here present your Excellency with the same *golden basin and ewer* which you refused from their hands. It cost them one thousand pound; and, because it was of their providing, we can the more freely bestow it upon you.

I have been an old thanksgiving sinner, as well as Mr. Speaker, or any of them all, in the days of old Essex, who, I am sure, never received such a present for all his pains, but was content to be fobbed off with a close-stool and a pipe of tobacco ; which was the reason, I conceive, why my brother Atkins here, in those days, kept so close to him after dinner.

And as for you, Mr. Lieutenant-General, though your merits outweigh whatever we can present to you, and though in all the before-named exploits we must allow you the greatest share, yet be pleased to accept of the less requital,—a poor pittance of £300 in plate, and a vision of golden angels in a purse, to the value of £200, all the gift of our own fraternity.

“ As for the rest of the lords and gentlemen here present, I hope they will excuse us, and think themselves well satisfied with a good dinner: and, in particular, you, my Lord President, who deserve much in the settling of this republick. But having done but one single act towards it, if you expect more than a dinner, we must leave you to the consideration of Mr. Lieutenant-General, who set you on work, and will, no doubt, in the end pay you your wages.

“ I have but one word more to say, and that is this : we have great cause to rejoice in the settlement of this happy commonwealth, but I fear we shall not be quiet yet. God bless us from untoward dreams and restless nights, and send us well to digest this thanksgiving dinner, and to have no more of them, nor occasion for them in haste ; for the frights they put us into before hand are terrible, and the dinners themselves are chargeable indeed, if malignants speak truth, who say this very day’s thanksgiving will cost us no less than our heads, if not our souls too, into the bargain. Therefore, gentlemen, in a word, I think we have but one play, and that is, to hold up the state as long as we can, and to make sure of our heads and estates, and pillage other men’s, when we can hold it no longer.”

In answer to this, Hugh Peters, being well whittled with wine, made the following reply :

Reader, Peter, his being drunk is no fable (I assure you), and he fell out with the butler.

“ HUGH PETERS, *his Thanksgiving Speech for a farewell to the City, in the behalf of the General and Lieutenant-General.*

“ Mr. Alderman Pennington, and the rest of the Representatives of the City,

“ I must tell you, I have been half the world over, and yet I am come back again ; and, by my faith, sirs, I must tell you, I never saw such a jolly, godly crew as are here, all high fellows together : 'Tis merry when maltmen meet ; and (they say) some of us here have been brewers, and of worse trades too. But, oh, oh,—let that pass. I defy brewing ; for I have been all over your wine cellar, and that's another world ; but it's as slippery a world as this, and runs round too. What a Nicodemus is the butler ! he was loth to own me but by night ; he bade me stay all night, and then I should have my belly full. Now, sirs, I conceive that a bellyfull is a bellyfull ; and, if a man hath not his bellyfull, it is no thanksgiving. And if you (gentlemen of the city) have not a bellyfull of this thanksgiving, I say you may have a bellyfull.

“ Had Dr. Dorislaus been so wise as to have staid at home, he might have had another kind of bellyfull than he had at the Hague : but a bellyfull still is a bellyfull, and at Grocers' Hall is a better ordinary than a Dutch ordinary for a bellyfull. Pox o' your Dutch ordinary, I think they will become English, and give us all a bellyfull ; but in another kind (I fear) than I gave my Dutch landlady and her daughter.

“ But no matter for that, a bellyfull is a bellyfull ; their

bellies were empty, and so was mine; for I had not so much as a *stiver* to bless myself, and they would never let me be quiet, and I scor'd up still, and so I got my bellyfull, and they got their bellyfull; which was one bellyfull for another, and so at length I was quit of them.

“ Then I went to New England, and there I saw a blessed sight, a world of wild men and women lying round a fire, in a ring, stark naked. If this custom should come up in London, (as I see no reason but it may, if the state will vote it,) then every woman may have her bellyfull, and it would be a certain cure for cuckolds and jealousy, and so the city would lose nothing by this *thanksgiving*.

“ But now I come home to the point in hand, my Lord Mayor, and you gentlemen of the city, I am commanded to give you thanks; but I would know for what? for your dinner? yes, I will when I have my bellyfull; but your butler is no true Trojan; he knows not how to tap and toss the stingo. Sure he is some Presbyterian spy, that is slinkt into office; some cowardly fellow, that pines away at scandalous sins, and the stool of repentance, and he will never do well till he be drench'd for the humour: so that now I see I am like to go away without my bellyfull; and have never a jigg to the tune of *Arthur of Bradley* — *Sing O brave Arthur of Bradley!—Sing O!*

“ But if things go thus, what should I thank you for?—The state foresaw what slender good fellows you would be, or else some of you had been knighted, as well as my Lord of Pembroke. Nay, it was God's mercy you had not all been knighted: for it was put to the vote (I tell you) whether my Lord Mayor should be knighted; and whether you, Alderman Pennington and Alderman Atkins, should be dubbed Sir Isaac and Sir Thomas, of the state's own creation. But, since it is resolved otherwise, I pray you bid the butler bring up his *bannikins*, and I'll make you all lords like myself, for now I am no less in title than Lord *Hugo de Santo Pietro Pintado*, and every jot as merry as forty beggars.

“ Now, I warrant, you expect I should thank you for his *Excellency’s* golden bason and ewer? ‘Tis true, I was commanded to do so; but what care I for a *bason* and *ewer*! Give me a *pipe* and a *chamber-pot*; I mean a pipe of Canary into the bargain, or else it shall be no thanksgiving-day for me. Oh, for a conduit from Malaga, and that we knew how to convey Middleton’s pipes to the Canary Islands, then there would be no end of thanksgiving.

“ I am commanded, likewise, to thank you for the Lieutenant-General’s plate and his purse of gold; and I am so much the more willing to do it, because I hope to have a feeling out of it anon, when we come home. But (as I take it) you have more reason to thank him, than he you: for, you gave him a little purse of money, and ‘tis his goodness he does not take all. I observe, too, you have given him but the value of £500, and his Excellency, forsooth, as much more. Do you know what you do? Cou’d you not have ask’d my counsel before? You may chance to be switch’d (i’faith) for not setting the saddle upon the right horse; and well you deserve it, if I be not furnish’d with a pipe of Canary. Let me not be put off with nothing, like my Lord President and Mr. Speaker; you know whither to send, sirs. My lodging is sometimes at St. James’s, but most an end in Thames-street: there’s my maid, a handsome lass, I tell you, will take it in as well as myself, or else I would never keep her. Farewell, sirs, here’s nothing do (I see).

“ A pox on your butler, and his lean joules,  
There’s liberty lies at the bottom of the bowles.

“ Thus it is in one of our *modern authors*; but I confess I can have none of this liberty, though it be the first year of *freedom*, and then judge you, whether the state or the state’s servants have any cause of *thanks*. Farewell, sirs, I am gone. Oh for a *milk-bowl*, or his Excellency’s *bason*

and *ewer* now to spue in, and make an end of thanksgiving."

The government of the Commonwealth appear to have been tremblingly alive to the destruction of every memorial of royalty, no matter how ancient or how trifling. The existence of Queen Elizabeth's arms at the upper end of Grocers' Hall appears to have given them umbrage; for, on the 25th February, 1651, the Lord Mayor addressed a letter to the Wardens, directing the said arms to be taken down, and replaced by those of the Commonwealth, "or "by some other piece." The Court of Assistants did not evidently approve of this interference; for, after considerable hesitation, they agreed "that the fulfilment of "this order should be left to the Wardens, to cause the "same to be done at as easy a charge as they can, not "exceeding the sum of three pounds." Some further instances of the vexations practised by this precious government will be found in the notice of the Company's history in another part of this volume.

The same spirit of dislike to the usurping *Protector* is observable in the conduct of the Company in the early part of 1654: they knew

" That to his power he would  
 " Have made them mules, silenced their pleaders, and  
 " Disproperty'd their freedoms; holding them,  
 " In human action and capacity,  
 " Of no more soul, nor fitness for the world,  
 " Than camels in the war; who have their provender  
 " Only for bearing burdens, and sore blows  
 " For sinking under them."\*

On the 3d February, "notice was given to the Court "of the citye's intention of entertaining the Lord Protector "at this Hall, as it was lately agreed upon by the Lord "Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council." It was

Queen Elizabeth's arms.

\* *Coriolanus*, act ii. scene 4.

notified that something would be expected of this Company, among others, “for the gracing of this entertainment in their standing railes, for which it was supposed some express would be issued out in writing; and, therefore, the direction of the Court was desired what should be done in this Company to give satisfaction therein?” In reply to this, it was agreed and ordered, “upon consideration thereof, that *if any expresse shall come*, requiring this Company’s performance, that the managing of the said business shall be referred to the care and direction of the Wardens, and they to order and appoint, at the charge of this Company, whatever *shall be required by expresse.*” No express did come, and the Company were spared the humiliation of acting, upon compulsion, in direct opposition to those feelings of loyalty and of attachment to their legitimate sovereign which they had always professed, and afterwards displayed, in so eminent a degree, at the restoration.

Feast to  
General  
Monk.

Under the constant influence of these principles, it is not surprising that the Grocers should seize, with eagerness, the earliest opportunity that offered of publicly testifying them. They invited General Monk and his commanders to a splendid entertainment at their Hall, on the 8th of February, 1660, that eventful year which restored King Charles to the throne of his ancestors.

To render this festival the more remarkable, it was ordered that, in the course of it, the Master and Wardens should tender the freedom of this Company to the Lord General, as a mark of the particular respect and gratification of this Society to his Excellency, for his professions of tenderness and care for the honour and safety of the city.” This is the first instance of the Company’s freedom being bestowed upon an individual, in approbation of public services; and surely one more deserving of such honourable distinction could not have been selected. To give the reader an idea of the splendour of this entertain-

ment, which created such a sensation at the time,\* it is only necessary to state that it cost £215; a sum never before expended for such a purpose.

On the 29th of May 1660, King Charles the Second made his public entrance into London; and, on this occasion, the Grocers took a conspicuous part in the pageant furnished by the city. Sir Thomas Alleyn, Lord Mayor, a member of their Company, received his Majesty in a splendid pavilion erected, for the occasion, in St. George's Fields; and, after a suitable address, delivered the city sword into the King's hand, who, with it, conferred upon him the honour of knighthood. "The 29th of May," say the records, "being the day of His Majesty's birth, is appointed to be annually observed for the restauration of His Sacred Majesty to his dominions and dignity." The above resolution was passed after His Majesty had condescended to accept the office of Sovereign Master of the Company; and, since that period, an entertainment has been regularly given at the Hall on the 29th of May, under the name of "*The Restoration Feast.*"

I have now to advert to an event which caused a greater destruction of property, and entailed more severe and protracted distress upon the city of London than any that has occurred before or since; not even excepting the great plague of 1661. The latter caused great temporary misery; but the former, in its effects, was felt for several generations after. The Grocers' Company participated in the general ruin; and did not begin to recover from the consequences for nearly a century after. It is not my intention to give a description of this great fire, because it is to be found, at length, in every book which treats of the history of London;† and, besides, it would be foreign to my purpose to do so.

The fire, which extended its ravages northward to far

The Resto-  
ration.

Fire of  
London.

\* See Pepys's Diary, vol. i.

† See Maitland and Northouck's Histories.

beyond Lothbury, in its progress, consumed Grocers' Hall and all the adjacent buildings, save the turret in the garden. With the exception of the Company's records, every particle of the property in the Hall was destroyed. Under date of the 9th November, 1666, are the particulars of an account given to the Court, by the Wardens, " of the " Company's plate being melted in the Hall, in the late " violent and destructive fire, and the melted parcels " carefully taken up and put together, and of the Com- " pany's urgent occasions for a supply of money;" where- upon it was ordered, " that the same be sold and disposed " of to the best advantage and benefit of the Company." After a schedule of the Company's houses and rents, as they existed before the fire, had been read to the Court, Mr. Warden Webb declared " that divers matters of im- " portance are behind, very behooffull to be taken into " consideration, which, in regard of the shortness of the " days, the distance of divers persons' abodes, and the " danger and Troublesomeness of going, in the dark, " among the ruins, cannot, at present, be moved to admit " of time for debate and determination; and, therefore, " he and his brethren, the Wardens, did agree to have a " Court of Assistants here every Friday, in the afternoon, " for some continued time weekly, where they would " attend for settling the Company's business in some order " and form, and desired the members of this court to shew " their forwardness in appearing and giving their advice " and assistance for the concerns of the Company." The place of meeting was the turret-house, which served, also, as a residence for the clerk, whose presence on the spot was considered essential.

The silver recovered from the ruins was remelted, and produced nearly 200lb. weight of metal, which was sold for present supplies; and it was declared " that the parti- " cular parcels of melted plate shall be made up again, " and the arms and inscriptions of every person graved " therein, for the donor's memorial and future encourage-

" ment of succession, as money shall come in. This order  
" to be recorded and the Court put in remembrance when  
" the Company shall be in cash and condition to perform  
" the same."

After the panic produced by this awful calamity had, in a great degree, subsided, the Court of Assistants naturally turned their thoughts towards rebuilding their Hall. The Company's funds were exhausted, and there were heavy debts outstanding, the liquidation of which was to have been effected by means of fines to be levied on the renewal of the leases which were about to expire. The houses were almost all of them destroyed, and, with them, vanished the hope of supplies from that quarter. No resource remained but that of an appeal to the liberality of the members of the Company in the form of a subscription. This was resolved upon, and the Wardens, who appeared very zealous in the cause, undertook to wait personally upon every individual, and to solicit contributions. Whether there existed a disinclination, or whether the losses by the fire had crippled the resources of the members, does not appear, but the subscription, in spite of the exertions of the Wardens, was not very productive; for, on the 2d of May, 1667, Mr. Warden Webb informed the Court, " that he accompanied some of his brethren to collect subscriptions for the Hall, that they had been courteously received, and had collected seven hundred pounds," according to particulars then read. This sum was far from sufficient for the purpose intended; but, as it was found that the walls of the old hall had resisted the fire, and were sound, it was determined to new roof them, and to proceed with the money collected, in the hope that a further supply from the members might be procured.

The work languished for many months, and, in all probability, would have been entirely suspended, had not that strenuous supporter of the Company, Sir John Cutler, come forward. On the 6th of February 1668, he intimated to the Court, through Mr. Warden Edwards, his intention of rebuilding the parlour and dining-room, at his

Sir John  
Cutler.

own charge, for the Company's accommodation. As the Company were at this time suffering the greatest inconvenience, arising from their inability to discharge the debts contracted under their seal, for the service of the government and the city, in the years 1640, 1641, and 1643,\* he suggested, at the same time, as a measure of precaution, "that the ground should be conveyed to him under a "peppercorn rent, for securing it, when built, against "extent or seizure." This proposal was referred, by order of the Court, to the Recorder, for a legal opinion thereon, and, as he strongly recommended it, "an indenture of sale "and demise of the grounds and buildings about the Hall "was made to Sir John Cutler" and other members, sixteen in number, who had contributed and subscribed £20 and upwards, "according to the direction of the Committee, "for 500 years, at a pepper-corn rent." The buildings were then completed, and, in January 1669, a strong vote of thanks to Sir John Cutler, for his munificence, was passed; and it was resolved that his statue and picture should be placed in the Hall, as memorials of the Company's esteem and gratitude. The first meeting and festival held in the Hall, after the fire of London, were on Lord Mayor's day, 1668.

Divine service in hall.

The churches were among the last edifices restored after the fire; and the want of them was severely felt for a considerable time. The church of Saint Mildred, in the Poultry, had shared the common fate of the other buildings in the neighbourhood, and the parishioners made application to the Company, in 1670, for leave to have divine service performed in the Hall. Some doubts existed, in the minds of the Court, as to the propriety of permitting this without the sanction of the Bishop of London; but they were removed by a letter from that prelate, in which he not only approved of it, but added, that the Company's acquiescence would be agreeable to his Majesty. The permission was,

\* The particulars of these transactions will be found in another part of this volume.

of course granted, and divine service performed regularly in the Hall for many months after.

I cannot here omit the insertion of a curious article, which I find in the Company's books, dated the 8th of July, 1670; it serves to illustrate the habits of the time, and displays, I am sorry to say, a want of polish and good manners in our predecessors, which will startle their descendants. It is, however, consolatory to know that, even at that period, there were persons attached to the Company, to whom the proceedings complained of gave offence. The resolution is as follows;

“ Upon complaint and observation of the unseemliness  
 “ and disturbance, by taking tobacco and having drink  
 “ and pipes in the court-room, during Courts sitting; and,  
 “ for the better order, decorum, and gravity to be ob-  
 “ served, and readier despatch and minding of debates  
 “ and business of the Court, and avoiding the occasion of  
 “ offence and disgust, it is agreed that, hereafter, there  
 “ be no taking of tobacco or drinking used or permitted in  
 “ the Court-room, during the sitting of the Court; and, if  
 “ any person have a desire to refresh himself by a pipe of  
 “ tobacco or cup of drink, at a convenient time or interval  
 “ of serious business, to withdraw into some retiring room  
 “ more suitable and fit for the purpose. Any person in-  
 “ fringing this rule to fine five shillings, for each offence,  
 “ to the poor-box.” There is no doubt that this wholesome  
 regulation produced the desired effect, for I find no men-  
 tion of a continuance of the above irregularities: it is true  
 that what occurred soon after, was sufficient to banish  
 from the minds of the members of the Court all ideas of  
 indulgence and joviality.

The Company, from the causes I have already stated, being deprived of funds, were compelled to stop the payment of the interest due upon their debts, as well as of some of their charities. The detail of the circumstances which brought them into this distressing situation will be found in another place, it is, therefore, unnecessary to repeat it here. Suffice it to say, that the Governors of Christ's Hospital

Smoking  
and Drink-  
ing during  
the sitting  
of the  
Court.

The Hall  
sequester-  
ed.

obtained a decree in Chancery, in satisfaction of arrears due to them, under the wills of Lady Conway and Lady Middleton, by which they served a notice of ejectment on the clerk and beadle, in June 1672, and, finally, took possession of the Hall, "which they strictly kept by a "guard." The books, papers, and seal were removed by order of the Court, and committed to the care of Mr. Warden Booth.

Meetings  
of the Court  
at various  
places.

The Court of Assistants, during a long period, were compelled to hold their meetings, for the conduct of business, at various places. In July 1673, a Court was held at Skinners' Hall; several meetings took place "at the Crown Tavern, behind the Exchange;" and at the Irish and Old Council Chambers, at Guildhall. The first mention of the Company's return, occurs on the 14th of October 1674, but this was merely on sufferance, as possession of the Hall was still kept by the agents of Christ's Hospital. This state of things continued for several years, for, in July 1677, one Jackson applied to the Wardens for certain taxes which he was authorised to levy, and the answer he received was, "that the Hall was still under sequestration and seizure, the Company's meetings being "at the pleasure and toleration of the disposers." After great difficulties and impediments, money was borrowed on security, and the Hall finally cleared of the intruders. The books and papers were brought back, and the Company's officers reinstated in 1679, during the mayoralty of Sir James Edwards, one of the members. This was effected by a loan of £2500, to the Company, by a Mr. Naylor, on mortgage of the Hall and other premises not connected with the charities.

The Com-  
pany re-  
instated.

The Hall  
enlarged.

Two years afterwards, it was considered that the Hall, if enlarged and beautified, might become a source of considerable revenue, as the situation would insure its being constantly and profitably let as a residence for the Lord Mayors. "Sir John Moore (a worthy member) taking "into his consideration the deplorable condition of the "Company, every year lessening in reputation, by reason

“ of their Hall thus in ruins, (which not only discouraged  
“ men to take their freedoms and apprentices to be  
“ bound there, and benefactors from their liberality, but  
“ also rendered the society almost contemptible,) he was,  
“ therefore, very inclinable, at his own charge, to repair  
“ the great Hall, thereby to encourage other members, by  
“ his example, to contribute their assistance to re-edify  
“ and augment it, so as to make it the most commodious  
“ seat for the Chief Magistrate in this city, as the only  
“ means to preserve a succession of members in this  
“ Company; which being made known by Sir James  
“ Edwards, (then Master) in a Court of Assistants, it was  
“ referred to the Wardens, together with some other  
“ members, to consider of and propound a model for  
“ such additional building, as might make the Hall com-  
“ modious, both for ornament and use, to answer so  
“ noble a design: upon report of which committee, soon  
“ after, Sir John Frederic, Sir James Edwards, and  
“ several other aldermen and worthy members, agreed to  
“ contribute liberally towards so good a work, as being  
“ fully convinced that, if the Hall should long continue  
“ under these circumstances, not only all that had been  
“ done would be wholly fruitless, but all that remained  
“ (for which they were trustees to the generations to  
“ come) would soon waste into nothing, which would re-  
“ proachfully render the present members most ungrateful  
“ to their ancestors, whose names still blossom in what  
“ remains of those pious monuments of their charities,  
“ and obnoxious to those who should succeed happy  
“ members of this society.

“ And, therefore, concluded this great work to be the  
“ only leading means left to preserve the society; and  
“ that as Sir John Cutler had so long before, for those  
“ very ends, at his own charges, begun, and Sir John  
“ Moore had now undertaken to repair and beautifie the  
“ great Hall, so they held themselves highly obliged to  
“ promote and carry on so excellent a work; and having  
“ caused the seite and fabrick of the Hall to be surveyed,

“ and finding that with some more additional building  
“ (then already propounded to be erected) it might be made  
“ a more commodious and convenient habitation for the  
“ chief magistrate than any other ever was before, within  
“ the City of London; therefore, that it might answer all  
“ these good ends, and might, with all possible speed, be  
“ carried on and finished, in order to invite and encourage  
“ all the members to contribute towards payment of the  
“ Company’s debts, and arrears of charities (wherein Sir  
“ William Hooker, then one of the sitting Aldermen and  
“ late Lord Mayor, and many other worthy members, had  
“ liberally contributed as good examples) they liberally  
“ subscribed and paid towards the raising and finishing of  
“ such additional building, declaring themselves (if occa-  
“ sion should be, afterwards) to be farther assisting to  
“ compleat so good a work; not doubting but their  
“ brethren, the rest of the members, would every one  
“ follow according to their degrees and qualities.

“ And that the beautifying and repairing their Hall might  
“ not prove a bait to such creditors, if any should be, as  
“ formerly seized the ruins of the same, to endeavour  
“ again a sequestration against it, but might answer those  
“ good ends so by them designed: the Company, by ad-  
“ vice of learned counsel, after an inquisition taken before  
“ *the Commissioners for Charitable Uses*, and pursuant to  
“ a decree made by those commissioners, have conveyed  
“ the same and all their revenue, and the equity of re-  
“ demption thereof (subject to the said former securities)  
“ to trustees, to secure the yearly payment, not only of  
“ those charities wherewith that revenue is charged by the  
“ donors, but also with the overplus, (as the same will  
“ extend) those other yearly charities, payable by the Com-  
“ pany to several places, persons, and uses, by the appoint-  
“ ment of other benefactors, who heretofore paid into  
“ their hands several great sums of money for those uses,  
“ for which now no fund remains, that they might also  
“ thereby not only discharge their consciences towards  
“ God, and the memory of such pious benefactors, but

" also avoid the chargeable prosecutions of the Commissioners upon the statute for charitable uses, who have, of late, put this Company every year to exceeding great charges and expences."\*

Sir John Moore's contribution amounted to the sum of £500, for which, as well as for the zeal he exhibited in inciting others to follow his example, he received the cordial thanks of the Court, who ordered his picture to be painted and placed in the Hall, as a lasting testimonial of their gratitude. He was the first chief magistrate who kept his mayoralty at Grocers' Hall, and he paid the Company a nett rent of £200 for the use of it. It continued to be let for the same object for many years; and, in 1735, as the Company's circumstances had much improved, it was ordered by the Court of Assistants that the Hall should not, for the future, be let but to a Lord Mayor attached to the Company.

In the year 1694, the Bank of England was established, and the first Governor chosen, was Sir John Houblon, Knt. a member of the Grocers' Company and one of the Court of Assistants. The first five general courts of proprietors were held at Mercers' Hall, in Cheapside, but, as the situation was found to be inconvenient, a proposal was made to the Wardens of the Grocers' Company to treat for their Hall: this was entertained by the Court, and a committee appointed to arrange with the directors for the demise of the Hall, yard, and garden, for eleven years. Several meetings and discussions took place respecting the terms and conditions, and a final arrangement was concluded in October, 1694; on the 4th of that month the following memorandum was agreed upon and signed;

Bank of  
England.

*Memorandum.*—That it is this day agreed and concluded, between the Wardens and Commonalty of the mystery of the Grocery of the city of London and the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, that the said Wardens

\* A short account of the Company of Grocers, by Wm. Ravenhill, 1689.

and Commonalty shall demise Grocers' Hall, yard, and garden, as usually let to the Lord Mayor, to the said Governor and Company for the term of eleven years from the five-and-twentieth day of December next ensuing, the agreement reserving to the Company, the clerk's and beadle's houses, with free ingress, egress, and regress, at all seasonable times, to and from the said clerk's house, and reserving also to the said Wardens and Commonalty all the present lights looking into the said yard and garden. That the said Governor and Company of the Bank of England shall advance and pay to the said Company the sum of five hundred pounds for a fine for the said term, as also the further sum of five thousand pounds more, to discharge a debt of four thousand five hundred pounds, and interest on mortgage, of the said Company's Hall and lands.

That the said Governor and Company of the said Bank covenant to pay all taxes, parish duties, river water, and repairs, during the said term, and leave the Hall, garden, &c. in the same condition they now are, at the expiration of the said term; and further shall mutually do as counsel shall advise. That the said Governor and Company of the said Bank advance and pay the said several sums of five hundred pounds and five thousand pounds on the said Wardens' and Commonaltys' assignment of the said mortgage to the said Governor and Company, at any time after the first day of November next, and that the said Wardens and Commonalty, or their successors, shall only repay the said principal sum of five thousand poundsat the expiration of the said term of eleven years.

That the said Governor and Company shall deliver to the said Wardens and Commonalty all such goods and utensils as shall be scheduled or mentioned in the said demise, that the said Governor and Company shall have possession of the said Hall and garden the first day of November next, that the said Wardens and Commonalty shall have the usual room in the said Hall to put their

trophies in on public occasions. Witness our hands the  
4 day of October, 1694.

JOHN SHERWOOD,	JOHN OWEN,
ROBT. DAWSON, Sen.	MICHAEL GODFREY,
DANIEL D'ORVILLE,	W.M. GORE,
THOMAS TUCKFIELD,	W.M. SCAWEN,
SAML. BREWSTER,	GILBERT HEATHCOTE.
PHILIP SCARTH,	

At the expiration of the lease, a new arrangement was entered into with the Bank, for a period of fourteen years, at a peppercorn rent and a fine of five thousand pounds, with which the former mortgage was paid off and the Hall finally released. Eleven years were afterwards added to the term, and, in 1734, the last General Court was held at Grocers' Hall; the Bank establishment was removed to the new offices in Threadneedle-street, and the Hall, now in the free and uncontrolled possession of its rightful owners after a lapse of sixty years, was ordered to be repaired and beautified, which was done in the following year, under the management and conduct of a committee.

Matters appear to have gone on very smoothly for some time; and the only event which, for a short period, disturbed the monotony of the usual routine of business, was the reception and quartering of a small party of troops at Grocers' Hall in 1780; they were a portion of the considerable body of military, which had been sent into the city to quell the riots excited by Lord George Gordon and others. The soldiers were liberally provided with food and bedding, and the officers treated with great attention and respect by the Court of Assistants. They were stationed at the Hall for several weeks.

On Saturday, the 28th February, 1784, a grand entertainment was given at the Hall, on the occasion of the Right Honourable William Pitt receiving the freedom of the Company. His mode of accepting it appeared to give great satisfaction to the members, for he told them "that

Riots in  
1780.

The Right  
Hon. Wm.  
Pitt.

" he had previously declined a similar offer from the  
" Goldsmiths, considering himself as already connected  
" with the Company of Grocers, into whose freedom his  
" father had formerly been admitted."

The Hall  
in decay.

About this period, various parts of the Hall began to show symptoms of decay, and it became necessary to take the subject into serious consideration. Some of the members imagined that the constructing of two new rooms, in lieu of the court-room and great parlour, and a solid repair of the remainder of the building, would answer every purpose; and, accordingly, Mr. Leverton, the Company's surveyor, presented, by order, a plan and estimates. These were afterwards rejected, because the result of such a step would not, it was conceived, justify the large expenditure required. The further consideration of the subject was postponed from time to time, without any apparent probability of a final determination, until the year 1798, when the perilous situation of the roof, generally, and the tottering state of the lantern in the centre of it, clearly demonstrated the necessity of an entirely new building.

The Hall  
rebuilt.

Mr. Leverton, the architect, was ordered to prepare plans and estimates, which were approved and adopted, and the new Hall commenced: it was completed and opened on the 21st July, 1802, during the Mastership of Mr. William Clarance. Time, I regret to say, has shown that the Company's confidence and liberality were abused in the construction of their building; they paid a price for it which justified the expectation that it would have lasted for a long series of years, but they were deceived. The careless manner in which the foundation was constructed soon became evident; in 1814, cracks were discovered in various places in the walls, and some repairs were ordered, under the full expectation that the damage would extend no further. This, however, proved fallacious, as, in 1827, the evil increased, and the Hall was threatened with destruction within twenty-nine years after the first stone was laid!

The Company have been fortunate in obtaining the

assistance of an excellent architect in the person of Mr. Joseph Gwilt, a gentleman of known talent, and ranking among the first men in his profession. He has displayed great energy and zeal in the prosecution of the duty entrusted to his care, and, I should add, considerable taste in the arrangement of the ornamental and decorative part. I am happy in having this opportunity of doing an act of justice to Mr. Gwilt's ability and perseverance, of which I had constant proofs during the year I had the honour of presiding as Master of the Company.

Before I conclude this part of my subject, I cannot avoid remarking on the good taste and good feeling of the Court of Assistants in reviving, on the walls of their buildings, the names and arms of those illustrious and benevolent individuals, who, in ancient times, shed a lustre on the Company by their virtues and eminence, and augmented its power of doing good, by bequests for charitable purposes. An example is thus held up to future generations, which, I trust, will not be without its utility.

Let me, in conclusion, express my hope that the liberal expenditure incurred by the Grocers' Company in the restoration of their Hall may ensure its duration, and that it may long continue to rank among the most elegant buildings in the metropolis.

## THE COMPANY.

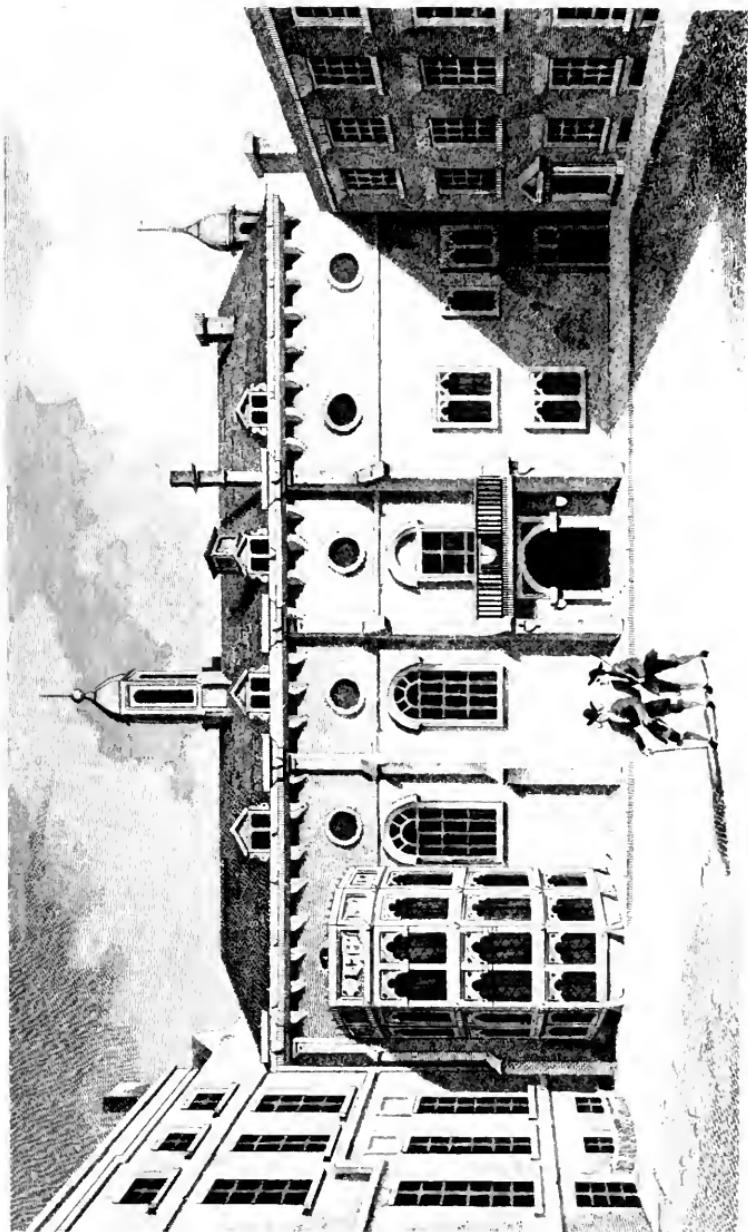
“ . . . . . not a wind upon the sailor’s compass,  
 “ But from one part or other was their factor  
 “ To bring them in the best commodities  
 “ Merchant e’er ventured for.”  
*Beggar’s Bush, Act 1. Sc. 2.*

THE Grocers’ Hall and its contiguous offices having been destroyed by the great fire of London, in 1666, as before stated, and, with them, all the property they contained, it is at once fortunate and extraordinary that the records of this venerable Company should have been preserved entire. Singular care must have been taken to place them in safety, as the series of *Ordinances and Remembrances* is uninterrupted and complete from the commencement, and from them I have gathered a great portion of the matter embodied in the following narrative.

**Pepperers.** The original founders of the Worshipful Company of Grocers\* were known, at a very remote period of English history, under the name of *Pepperers*; and, although they bore this distinctive appellation, they were recognised as general traders, who bought and sold, or, according to the

\* “ The word *Grocer* was a term distinguishing merchants of this society, in opposition to inferior retailers, for that they usually sold in gross quantities, by great weights. And in some of our old books the word signifies merchants that, in their merchandising, dealt for the whole of any kind.”—*Rarenhill’s Short Account of the Grocers*.

“ *Grocers*, in libro statutorum nostrorum significat mercatores, qui alii quod mercium genus totum coemunt.”—*Skin. Etymologicon Lingue Anglicane*.



A COLOURED VIEW OF GROTONS HALL

IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK, ENGLAND.



legal acceptation of the word, *engrossed* all kinds of merchandise. At the early dawn of commerce in this country, they established the first mercantile association on record, and, no doubt, suggested, at an after period, the first idea of the East-India and Levant Companies.

" It is well known," says Ravenhill,\* " this Company hath bred the most eminent merchants in this city: and this society hath been so prolific that many other societies have been branched out from hence, as will be owned by the most worthy of them. The merchants trading to the Levant seas, and other societies, have originally been the offspring of this society, as appears by ancient records of indentures of apprentices to members of this Company."

The most authentic proof of the existence of the fraternity of *Pepperers*, at an early period, is that of the name of *Andrew Bokerel*, pepperer, who, for seven consecutive years, namely, from 1231 to 1237, served the office of mayor of London.

In the reign of Edward the Second, anno 1315, the 1315. fraternity came to be governed by rules and ordinances, which are extant in one of the books of the chamber of London, under this title,—“ *Ordinatio Piperarum de Soper-Lane*,” and written in Norman French, beginning thus: “ Ces sount les pointz que les bons genz de Sopere-lane del mestier des peverers, &c. By the assent of Sir Stephen de Abyndone, mayor of London, John de Gisors, Nicolas de Farindone, John de Wengrave, Robert de Kelsby, William de Leyre, and others, made for the common benefit of the whole people of the land.”†

The first charter of incorporation of *the Grocers* was granted by King Edward the Third, in the twentieth year of his reign, *Anno Domini 1345*. The foundation of the Company took place in the same year, when twenty-two

1345.  
First Incorporation of the Grocers.

\* A Short Account of the Company of Grocers. 1689.

† Strype's Stowe.

persons, carrying on the business of Pepperers in Soper's Lane, Cheapside, agreed to meet together to a dinner at the town mansion of the Abbot of Bury, in St. Mary Axe, now Bevis Marks,\* on the 12th of June, 1345, and committed the particulars of their formation into a trading fraternity, to writing. They then elected two persons of the company so assembled, *Roger Osekyn and Laurence de Halywelle*, as their first governors or wardens, chusing, at the same time, in conformity with the pious custom of the period, a priest, or chaplain, to celebrate divine offices for their souls' welfare. The details of this meeting, and the ordinances which emanated from it, both which were subsequently transcribed into the first volume of the minutes of the Company, are set forth, partly in Norman French and partly in old English, as follows, viz.—

“ En le hon<sup>r</sup>. de Dieu, & de sa douche Mere, & de  
 “ Sanct Antonin, & de touz Sancz, le viceseme jour de  
 “ Maij, en l'an de grace Mil cccxlv, & del Tierz Roi  
 “ Edward, apres le conquest, xix, une Frat.<sup>nité</sup> fuist  
 “ founduz des Compaignons Peveres de Soperes-lane, p<sup>r</sup>.  
 “ Am<sup>r</sup>. & unite de plus avoir, maintener & entrester  
 “ ensem<sup>e</sup>. De quel Fraternité somes comenseurs, fun-  
 “ deurs & doneurs de conserver la dite Fraternité.

WILLM. DE GRANTHAM.

JOHN DE STANOPE.

WILLM. DE HANAPSTEDDE.

WILLM. DE COTOUN.

LAURENCE DE HALLIWELLE.

JOHAN DE BROUMSFORD.

RICHARD LE ZONGE.

ROBERT DE HATFELDE.

\* “ The hotel, or inn, of the Abbots of Bury; a great house, large  
 “ of rooms, fair courts and garden plots, sometime pertaining to the  
 “ Bassets, but since to the Abbots of Bury, in Suffolk, and therefore  
 “ called Buries Marks, *vulgariter* Bevis Marks. Since the dissolution,  
 “ the property of Sir Thomas Hencage, son of Thomas Heneage.”—  
*Strype's Stowe.*

**NICOLAS CORP.**  
**ROGER OSEKYN.**  
**WILLM. BRIAN.**  
**JOHAN DE LA MORE.**  
**THOMAS FRELAND.**  
**ROGER CARPENTIER.**  
**RICHARD DE TOTYNGTON.**  
**HENRY DE TOTYNGTON.**  
**JOHAN LAMMASSE.**  
**JOHN GONWARDBY.**  
**REMOND DE GURDEUS.**  
**PERES VAN.**  
**VIVIAN ROGER.**  
**GEFFREY DE HALIWELLE.**

“ Alle these xxij persones before wretyd, were founders  
 “ of owre fraternitie, and the same daie before wretyn, they  
 “ were accorded to bee togydre at a denner in the Abbot’s  
 “ place of Bery, the xij daie of Juyn, in the yere of owre  
 “ Lord Jhū m.<sup>llē</sup> ccc xlvi, and in the xix yere of Kyng  
 “ Edward the Thredde, as it apperyth behynde in the  
 “ same booke in the iiiij leff: and at the sayd denner were  
 “ chosyn ij, the freste Wardynes that ever were, of owre  
 “ fraternyte—Whois names followe wretyn; Rogere Ose-  
 “ kyn and Laurence de Halywelle—and at y<sup>e</sup> sayd denner  
 “ was chosyn a preste to synge for them: and everie  
 “ brothe to paye j<sup>d</sup> a weke, and the preste to have 15<sup>d</sup>  
 “ everie weke.”

At this feast, or “ mangerie,” as it is quaintly termed in the books, every member was to pay twelve pence, and twenty-three pence more was to be disbursed by the Wardens. It was agreed, at the same time, that such feast should be called their “ First Assembly,” and that the whole of the members should be clothed in a livery, for which every one should pay his share, even on the day of the feast: and, by common consent, it was further ordained to have a priest on the feast day of St. John, Midsummer-day, then next ensuing, to sing and pray for the same

Company, and for all Christian people: and, for such priest's maintenance, every one was to pay at the rate of one penny a week, the wages in advance of the twelve-month ensuing, amounting to four shillings and four-pence each person, which was done, and the receipt thereof acknowledged by the Wardens. Then follow the names of eighteen persons of the Company, each of whom is credited for four shillings and four-pence, making the sum of £3 . 18s. in part of £4 . 15 . 4, the priest's yearly wages, at the rate of one penny a week each for the twenty-two members.

A memorandum, attached to the account, orders,

“ Que le prestre comenceroyt de chanter le iij jour de  
 “ Julij en l'an avant dict & resseveroit cheskun semaigne  
 “ 15<sup>d</sup>.”\*

Ordinances.

Here follow the first Ordinances, *pointz*, as they are termed, and it is gratifying to see how admirably they were calculated for the good government and guardianship of the Fraternity. Several of them yet remain in force; and although, at a later period, bye-laws were instituted for the regulation of the Company, in which, as was natural, the progress of knowledge and civilization was duly regarded, it is observable that they had for their basis the *Remembrances and Ordinances* instituted by our predecessors, during the first two centuries of their existence as a Fraternity. I do not transcribe them in the quaint language and orthography of the original, because they are long, and would, in that shape, be tedious: I take them, generally, from Mr. Bridgman's adaptation.

\* The following will shew what was considered enough for a priest's maintenance a few years afterwards:—

“ The rate at which a single man, a clergyman, might live decently at this time (A. D. 1362), is to be seen by an act of parliament of this 36th year of King Edward III. chap. viii. whereby a penalty was to be imposed by the bishops upon priests taking more wages than is assigned: and that no man shall give to a parish priest for his wages above five marks, or three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence (equal to £8 : 1 : 6 of modern money); or else his board, and one pound, six shillings, and eight pence.”—Anderson on Commerce, vol. i.

## ORDINANCES.

1345.

These are the *Points* ordained in the year of our Lord 1345, by common assent of those of the beforesaid Fraternity, to be kept and holden for ever, namely;

It is agreed, by assent, that no person shall be of the Fraternity if he is not of good condition and of this craft, that is to say, a Pepperer of Soper's Lane, or a Spicerer of the ward of Cheap, or other people of their mystery, wherever they reside; and, at their entrance, to pay at least 13s. 4d. sterling, or the value thereof; and, in good love and with a loyal heart, shall submit for their obedience towards all those who shall then be of the Fraternity, and be bound to keep and maintain the points after written, on pain of paying, without any refusal, to the Wardens as is agreed and ordained by common assent from thenceforth for ever, as by the points after written for the keeping and managing of which Fraternity, the first year *Roger Osekyn* and *Laurence de Hallywelle* were chosen Wardens by the common assent, to manage and redress all things according to the points after written, of which the first point is;

That every year, on St. Anthony's day, in the month of May, all those who are of the said Fraternity, and who are in London, shall come to the monastery of St. Anthony,\* to hear the high mass, and to abide from the beginning of the said mass, and each of them shall offer one penny in the worship of God and the Virgin Mary, St. Anthony, and all Saints, and whoever faileth shall pay twelve pence;† and on the same day, or any day within

\* The Fraternity were at a considerable expense in decorating an altar in St. Anthony's church, in Threadneedle-street. A long catalogue, in Latin, of the ornaments in use for it, is inserted in the Company's books.

† This ordinance is thus worded in the original:—"Ate whiche daie "and tyme, the accord was by comon assente y<sup>at</sup> everie man of the "Broth.<sup>d</sup>,hee being yn the cytie the daie of Seint Antonlyne yn the monyth "of Maye, shall comen to the cherehe of Seint Antonlyne aforesaid, yf "they bee in London, for to here the high masse, and there to abyde "from the begynnynge unto the endyng of the masse, and eche of yem "shall offre a peny in the worshipe of Godde, his blessed moder Marye, "Seint Antonlyne, and all Seyntis."

the octave thereof that shall be assigned by the Wardens, all those who shall be in London shall assemble together in a house, and commune and dine together, and shall be served according to the Ordinances of the Wardens; and every one of the Livery shall pay 3s. 6d. and those who shall be out of town shall pay 2s. 6d. for the said dinner, and towards the maintenance of the priest; and those that are not of the Livery and keep shops, shall pay twelve-pence.

And if any one would wish to be of the Fraternity, he shall not be received if not of good fame and by the assent of the Wardens and Company; and for any bad conduct that may afterwards happen, may be banished the Fraternity.

And if any debate should arise between one and another of the Fraternity, from henceforward, they are to represent the matter to the Wardens, and whatever they shall ordain shall be observed on one part as well as the other; and if in case one party will not abide by their ordinance, and complains to other ministers, all the Fraternity who are warned shall come with the Wardens to oppose him, if he be not in a case of felony, or such case that cannot be redressed but before those who have the law to preserve. And if, also, that the case could be redressed by the Wardens, and one party will not abide by their ordinance, as before is mentioned, that it be awarded by the assent of the Company, on a day assigned by the Wardens, to consult and ordain what he shall pay for the trespass.

And if any one of the Fraternity is injured in his right against another, be he whom he will, every one of the Fraternity shall go with him to have the matter redressed according to the fact, if in London; and those who fail, shall pay twelve-pence to the common box of the Fraternity, without denial, whenever it is demanded by one of the Wardens, to support the alms hereafter written.

And if any one of the Fraternity has a dispute wrongfully, in the same manner they are to go with him to have the matter redressed to the best advantage that can be, to save

his honour, and, if no penalty shall be ordained, the expenses shall fall upon himself, and those who are warned and fail going with him, in the same manner as before mentioned, shall pay twelve pence.

And if any one of the Fraternity dies in London, all shall attend his dirge and funeral until he is buried ; and those who shall be warned thereof and fail, shall pay twelve pence.

And in the same manner shall the Point be kept, if any of the Fraternity die out of London, and any of the said Fraternity shall be where that event happens.

And if any of the Fraternity dies, and it happens that he has not left a sufficiency to bury him according to his station, he shall be interred out of the common eleemosynary money for the honour of the Fraternity, and all those who are warned and do not come to his dirge and interment shall, as before mentioned, pay twelve pence.

And if any one of the Fraternity shall be asked by his friend to attend a dirge or oblation, every one who shall be warned shall go with him or pay three pence, if he shall have notice in writing the night before.

And if any one of the Fraternity shall be asked, even on the same day, by his friend, to attend a dirge or an oblation, he shall go with him, or pay one penny.

And when any one of the Fraternity, from henceforward, shall take an apprentice, he shall pay twenty shillings to the common box the day before he receives such apprentice.

And on every apprentice's leaving his master's service, if it pleases him to be of the Fraternity, he shall pay £2 to the Wardens, and shall be entered ; but he shall find good security in case of any bad conduct that may happen afterwards.

And those who are of the Fraternity shall be clothed once a year in a suit of livery, and, if they desire more, the same shall be by assent, whether as coats or as surtouts (*surtotes*), to be on the ordinance of the Wardens ; and those who are Wardens when any livery is bought for the Company against any time that should be in their year,

they shall buy them, and have them made, and distribute them ; and may lawfully take from each man what shall amount to his portion, without taking any more, that is to say, by one penny ; and every one shall keep their livery for two whole years.

And when the livery shall be bought, the Wardens to take, in the manner aforesaid, forty pence of every man ; and when they receive their livery, they shall pay the remainder of the amount without any further charge.

And if any one of the Fraternity should become poor by adventures on the sea, or by the advanced price of merchandize, or by borrowing or pledging, or by other misfortunes, that the Wardens and Company do ordain that he may be assisted out of the common money, according to his situation, if he cannot do without, when they are able to maintain him or them by the said money.

And when any one of the Fraternity makes his will, he may, according to his circumstances and free will, devise what he chooses to the common box, for the better supporting the Fraternity and their alms.

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The *Remembrances* of the Fraternity's meetings are continued regularly, from year to year, and are extremely curious, as illustrations of the manners and customs of the time : I shall, therefore, insert some of the earlier ones, before I pursue my notice of the Company in the form of a continued narrative.

Members received into the Fraternity in 1346, in the time of John de Stanope and Robert de Hatfelde.

THOMAS AUBREY,  
THOMAS DOLSELY,  
SIR ANDREW AWBRY,  
THOMAS SALUSBURY,  
JOHN SALUSBURY,  
WILLIAM BROKESBORNE,  
SIR JOHN HAMMOND,  
SIMON DOLSELY,  
JOHN NOCK.

1346.

**MEMORANDUM.**—That, on the 21st day of May 1346, which was the day of our assembly, Lawrence de Halliwell, executor of Geoffrey de Halliwell, formerly a Pepperer of Soper's Lane, gave and delivered to the Fraternity, in the presence of all those who were present, a chalice with the cover, made of silver, which weighed twelve ounces goldsmiths' weight, and an holy vestment for the priest, an alb, manaple, stole, and chesible, with the *corpus* and a little missal,\* to remain with and be used by the Fraternity for ever, to enter and make the said Geoffrey as one of the Fraternity in their register, and to have his soul prayed for by those who are maintained and assisted by the said Fraternity for ever; which request was granted by all the Company, who received the same and entered his name accordingly.

All the Companions of our Fraternity met together in the Abbot's Place of Bury, the 21st day of May, in the year of our Lord 1346, Roger Osekyn and Lawrence de Halliwell being Wardens and Purveyors; after which feast, and the cloth taken away, the said Roger and Lawrence chose John de Stanope and Robert de Hatfelde to be Wardens for the year ensuing, in the manner as appears in one of our Points before made; to which John and Robert, the aforesaid Roger and Lawrence delivered all the money of the Fraternity, that is to say £6.16 in silver and gold, and the chalice with the vesture, in the presence of William Grantham, William Hanapstede, Thomas Freland, and John de Bromsford, who were chosen by all the Company to superintend the accounts and the delivery of the aforesaid Wardens.

And it was ordained the said 21st day, by common assent, that the Wardens for the time being, and those who should afterwards be, in aid and maintenance of the Fraternity,

\* It runs thus in the original:—"Une chalice ove le paterie dourant qe. poise xij onces, pris d'orfevre, et un vestement sainet, aube, manaple, stole, et chesible avec le corpus & une petite missale."

should have power to distrain, and the distress so taken to retain and keep during the time of their Wardenship, without any other manner of officer; those who shall act contrary to any of the ordinances, or shall refuse to pay what shall be imposed on them by the resolutions of the Wardens for their opposition or other defaults, according to their deserts; which power was sealed by all that were of the Fraternity, to be kept in the hands of the Wardens from year to year, to maintain them, and to take and retain the said distress, until satisfaction made by our Points firm and established to be kept for ever.

And on the same day it was agreed that, whoever should be of the Fraternity thereafter, should seal the said power in manner as others had done before, and from year to year, on the day of assembly, it should be read before the whole Company after the other Points.

And whereas some persons of the mystery had had liveries made by different persons who were not of the Fraternity, it was agreed that, from thencefore, no person who was not of the Fraternity should have the livery, which should be purchased for the Fraternity against Saint Anthony's day, in the month of May; and, also, that those of the Fraternity, but not others, should be clothed once a year with a full suit, as appears by one of the Points before recited.

1347.

MEMORANDUM.—That all the Companions of the Fraternity, that were in London, assembled together, at the Abbot's Place of St. Edmund, on the 3d day of June, in the year of our Lord 1347, John de Stanope and Robert de Hatfelde being Wardens and Purveyors. At which feast, the aforesaid John and Robert chose for Wardens, for the year ensuing, Nicholas Corp and John Gonewardby; and to the said Nicholas and John, the aforesaid John and Robert delivered the chalice, the vesture, and all the money of the Fraternity, that is to say, £14 . 7 . 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . in gold, in the presence of Simon Dolsely, William de Hanapsted, and Lawrence de Halliwell.

**Received in the time of John Gonewardby and Nicholas Corp, Wardens, 1347.**

**JAMES DE STANOPE,  
SIR WILLIAM DE THORNEYE,  
SIR JOHN DE GRANTHAM,  
NICHOLAS CHAUCER,  
WILLIAM KRECHERCHE,  
JOHN DE EVONEFELD.**

**BE IT REMEMBERED,** that the assembly of the Fraternity of St. Anthony was at the Ringdehall,\* the Sunday before the day of Saint Thomas the Martyr, the 6th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1348, John Gonewardby and Nicholas Corp, being Wardens and Purveyors, who, on the same day, chose Roger de Carpenter and William de Hanapstede to be Wardens for the year ensuing, in the manner as is ordained in one of our Points before written ; when the aforesaid John and Nicholas delivered £22 . 5 . 9 . to the aforesaid Roger and William, in the presence of Lawrence de Halliwell and Roger Osekyn ; and the chalice, vesture, surplice, a little missal, and a superaltar, were also delivered to the aforesaid Roger and William.

1348.

**Received in the time of Roger de Carpenter and William de Hanapstede, Wardens, 1348.**

**Sir John de Hichan,** a parson of St. Anthony, who died the 2d Dec. 1348.

**Sir Simon de Wy,** a parson of Barnes, who gave to the said Fraternity a chalice weighing fifteen ounces goldsmiths' weight, and a good missal which cost £3 . 6 . 8 .

\* Ryngedehalle, or Ringed Hall, a place in Saint Thomas Apostle, so called, where there was a messuage. In the reign of Edward III. a place so named, with four shops and two gardens, was granted by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, whose palace it had been, to the Abbot of Beaulieu, near Oxford, and regranted with a plea of Hustings. 2d of Richard II.

1348.

**MEMORANDUM.—**That, on the 6th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1348, there was an assembly of the Fraternity, now called the Fraternity of St. Anthony, in the house of one Fulham, called the Ryngegedehall, where they dined, and, after dinner was over, the following Points, hereafter written, were ordained by common assent.

Those who from henceforward shall be chosen (by the Wardens as before ordained) to be Wardens for the year ensuing, it is ordained, by common assent, for ever, that let them be in town or absent on the feast day, that at their first arrival in London, they shall receive and take upon them the office of Wardenship, in the same manner as if they had been present at the feast, without any refusal, under the penalty before mentioned.

And that every one of the Fraternity from thenceforward, that has a wife or companion, shall come to the feast, and bring with him a lady if he pleases;\* if they cannot come, for the reasons hereafter named, that is to say, sick, big with child, and near deliverance,† without any other exception; and that every man shall pay for his wife 20*d.*; also, that each shall pay 5*s.*, that is to say, 20*d.* for himself, 20*d.* for his companion, and 20*d.* for the priest.

And that all women who are not of the Fraternity, and afterwards should be married to any of the Fraternity, shall be entered and looked upon as of the Fraternity for ever, and shall be assisted and made as one of us; and, after the death of her husband, the widow shall come to the dinner, and pay 40*d.* if she is able.

And if the said widow marries any one that is not of the Fraternity, she shall not be admitted to the said feast, nor have any assistance given her, as long as she remains so married, be whom she will; nor none of us ought to meddle or interfere in any thing with her on account of the Fraternity, so long as she remains married.

\* In the original, “ & ameyne avec luy une demoiselle si luy plést.”

† “ Malade, ou grosse d’enfant & près sa deliveraunce.”

And on the same day, it was ordained for ever, to have a Beadle to warn and summon the Company whenever he is desired by the Wardens; and those who should be warned by him and make default, shall be fined (as by the before ordinances) as if they were warned by the Wardens themselves.

And that the said Beadle of the Fraternity shall have for his trouble, his clothing of the Livery, that is to say, the Wardens shall increase the charge upon every piece of cloth **12d.**, and shall give him his livery at the market price, and pay him the remainder in money for his other necessaries.

And, on the same day, it was ordained that, from thenceforth, the Wardens should not adventure over the seas, neither lend any of the goods of the Fraternity but at their own hazard.

And the Wardens, during their time, are to pay attention, if any apprentices are taken by any of the Fraternity, that they enter them on common paper, as it is ordained; if not, then at the end of the year the said Wardens shall deliver a list of the names of the masters and the new apprentices who have not been entered, to the other Wardens by them chosen.

And also it is agreed upon, for ever, that, after the other Points, this Point shall be likewise read, that is to say, when they are assembled.

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that the Fraternity of Saint Anthony was at the Ryngedehall, the 14th day of June and 4th day of July following, in the year of our Lord 1349; William de Hanapstede and Roger de Carpenter, Wardens of the mystery and Purveyors, rendered their accounts, and chose on the same days, William de Grantham and Nicholas Chaucer to be Wardens for the year ensuing, and delivered unto them in proper moneys £**31. 19. 7**, or the value thereof, under the inspection of John de Gonewardby and Robert de Hatfelde, being auditors of their accounts.

1349.

Received in the time of William de Grantham and Nicholas Chaucer, Wardens, 1349.

**WILCOT CANSTONE,**  
**RICHARD GRACE,**  
**JENKYN GADFREY,**  
**PHELYPOT FARNHAM,**  
**SIR JOHN DE LONDRES, a**  
*Parson of St. Anthony,*  
**WILLIAM HANAPSTEDE, JUN.**  
**JOHN WESTON,**  
**JOHN ZONGE,**  
**JOHN FLAN,**  
**THOMEKYN GRANTHAM,**  
**JOHN OTERLE,**  
**SIMON STAPILFORDE,**  
**WILCOT COSYN.**

1350 to  
1375.

The yearly meetings continued to be held regularly; and, from 1350 to 1375\* no variation took place, save an increase in the number of the Fraternity. Their common stock was delivered, from year to year, to the newly-elected Wardens by their predecessors, and the details may be found in the voluminous and monotonous entries of Wardens' accounts. In 1376, new ordinances were made, some of which continue in full vigour to the present day, particularly that which relates to the coronation of new Wardens in the presence of the livery. The following are extracts:

1376.

Ordinances made the 20th of August, 1376.

In the name of God, and in the 50th year of the reign of King Edward the Third, for advancing the honour of God and his holy Church, and for enlarging the hour of charity, the Grocers of London, with one accord and consent, have ordained and established, to strictly observe, for ever, the following Ordinances:

\* I should here mention that, in 1359 occurs the first instance of a charitable allowance by the Company, viz. "6d. a week to Thomas Lutier," and, also, 6d. a week for salary to John Leanter, the first Beadle of the Company.

They have ordained, that all the Company of this Mystery shall assemble once in every year, in the month of May, and dine together, which dinner shall be ordered and provided by the two Masters for the time being, and, after dinner, or, in the quaint wording of the original, “when the mangerie was ended,” the Wardens were to “come wyth garlonds on ther hedes,” and the Company were to choose for their three Wardens for the year following, those “upon whom the forseid garlondes shallen bee sett,” and to them should “bee delyvered” all money, papers, &c. which belonged to the Fraternity, under penalty of £10; and, if it pleases the Masters to choose one of the Company who should not be then present, the garland or chaplet shall be sent by the Company’s Beadle to the house of him who is so chosen and not present, and he shall accept of the office without any refusal, if he shall be in town, or, if out of town, he shall accept of the office on his first return; or, if any of the Fraternity, whether present or absent, being chosen in manner aforesaid, shall refuse the office, he shall pay, within eight days ensuing, ten marks for the salary of a priest for one year, or, otherwise, be turned out of the Company; and that the new Masters do accept the charges after-mentioned, that is to say, that they shall convene four meetings in the year, principally to treat of the common business of the Mystery, namely, one meeting to be in the month of May, another in August, the third in November, and the fourth in February, to perform the above-mentioned articles, and well and loyally keep and maintain all the ordinances already made, and to be made, for the common good, and by the common assent of the Fraternity; and they shall promise, *bonda fide*, according to the utmost of their power, without having regard to any single profit or favour of any person, that they will render a true and faithful account of all their receipts to the new Masters, in the presence of six good people of the Company, to be chosen for that purpose.

In 1379, the Company being fully and firmly established,

1379.

several additional regulations were made, and, among the rest, one which appointed the first Court of Assistants ; six associates or assistants were chosen to aid the Wardens in the discharge of their duties :\* they were to be elected annually, and to forfeit 12*d.* every time they failed in their attendance.

1383.  
Aldermen  
of the  
Company.

The Company gradually increased in numbers ; their affairs went on prosperously, and I cannot give a stronger proof of the importance which they attained, than by stating that, in the year 1383, there were no less than sixteen Aldermen of London, at one time, enrolled among their members ; their names, many of which are of great celebrity, are as follows :

**ALDERMAN SIR NICHOLAS BREMBRE,**  
**SIR JOHN HADDELEY,**  
**JOHN WARDE,**  
**WILLIAM BARRETT,**  
**ADAM CARLYL,**  
**ADAM CHAUNGEOR,**  
**JOHN HOO,**  
**HUGH FALSTOLFE,**  
**GEFFREY CREMYLFORD,**  
**WILLIAM BADBY,**  
**SIR WILLIAM STANDON,**  
**RICHARD AYLESBURY,**  
**JOHN FURNEUX,**  
**WILLIAM EYVESHAM,**  
**RICHARD PRESTOR,**  
**JOHN CHURCHMAN.**

The Fraternity, after holding their meetings for several years at the Abbot of Bury's, as before mentioned, at the Hotel of the Abbot of St. Cross, and at Fulsham's house at the

\* In the original, the resolution is thus worded : " At y<sup>e</sup> furst congre-  
 " gacyon of y<sup>c</sup> Wardeyns there shall be chosin six of y<sup>c</sup> Companie to be  
 " helpyng and counsellynge of y<sup>c</sup> same Wardeyns for the yeere follow-  
 " inge."

Rynged Hall, appear to have taken up their temporary residence in Bucklersbury, at a place called the Cornet's Tower, which had been used by Edward the Third, at the beginning of his reign, as his exchange of money and exchequer.\* Here the Company began to exercise the functions entrusted to them, of superintending the public weighing of merchandise,† a privilege procured for them, no doubt, by John Churchman, a member of the fellowship, some account of whose life will be found in another part of this volume. The list of the weights attached to this establishment is detailed in a note, anno 1398, in which it is stated, that they are deposited “in domo com. nra. m. Gro. in Boke-lersbury;” that is, “in the house of our community of the mystery of Grocers, in Bucklersbury.”

Having afterwards obtained a license to purchase of the Lord Fitzwalter the chapel in the Old Jewry, as before stated,‡ together with a portion of the said Lord's domain, they proceeded, in 1427, to build themselves a hall, the site of which has remained ever since in the possession of their descendants.

The Company's charter of incorporation, which had been several times renewed, was confirmed by King Henry the

1427.

1429.  
Confirmation of the Charter.

\* “This tower, of late yeeres, was taken down by one Buckle, a Grocer, meaning, in place thereof, to have set up and builded a goodly frame of timber; but the said Buckle, greedily labouring to pull down the old tower, a part thereof fell upon him, which so sore bruised him, that his life was thereby shortened, and another man married his widow, set up the new prepared frame of timber, and finished the work.”—*Stowe's Surtaxe*, p. 276.

† “So considerable in the city were the Grocers long before that time, (the reign of Henry VI.) that they may be well presumed (time out of mind) to have had the management of the King's beam, as an office peculiar to them; not only as principally using the same, but as being originally vested therein, they having had all along (beyond the memory of man) the naming of the weighmaster, and the naming, placing, removing, and governing of the four porters attending that office, all to be elected out of their own Company, and to be sworn at their own hall, a privilege allowed them as their undoubted and inseparable right, as ancient as that office itself, used in the city.”—*Ravenhill, Short Account of the Company of Grocers*.

‡ See page 3.

Sixth, in the seventh year of his reign, and they became  
 “ a body politick, by the name of *Custodes & Communitas*  
 “ *Mysterii Groceriae Londini.*” \*

The particulars of the fine and costs of obtaining the Patent, are detailed in the books as follows, viz.

1429.—To y <sup>e</sup> Chauncellor, for a fyne to y <sup>e</sup> King £50 0 0
Alsoe for y <sup>e</sup> . seale of owre greate patente 8 5 0
Alsoe for y <sup>e</sup> . drawinge of y <sup>e</sup> . saide patente
and costys ..... 0 12 0

Privileg  
e of Gar-  
bling.

The same charter granted to the Company the exclusive privilege of garbling, in all places throughout the kingdom of England. This garbling, being chiefly confined to pepper and other spices, was deemed necessary, in order that the material might be sold in a clean and pure state, unmixed with baser matter. The officer to whom this operation was entrusted, was sworn, at the time of his appointment, to discharge his duty faithfully and diligently, and to observe that the garble of merchants' goods should be impartial. In the year 1394, a petition was presented to the corporation of London by the Grocers' Company, and by Angelo Ciba, Reginald Grillo, Tobias Lomellino, Branca Doria, and other Genoese, Florentine, Lucca, and Lombardy merchants, complaining of the unjust mode of garbling spices and other *sotill wares*. It was thereupon ordered that any merchant who should, for the future, sell spices, or other merchandize belonging to garbellation, without its being first cleansed by a garbeller, chosen, accepted, and sworn for that purpose, should forfeit the goods. The Grocers' Company were requested to recommend some member of their own body to the Court of Aldermen to fill this office, which they accordingly did, and Thomas Halfmark was chosen and sworn garbeller of spices and of *sotill ware*. †

\* Ravenhill.

† “ The garbeller of spices is an officer of great antiquity in the city of London, who is empowered to enter any shop or warehouse, to view and search drugs, &c. and to garble and cleanse them.” —Covel.

This charter was afterwards confirmed, with a few alterations, in the reigns of Henry the Eighth, Charles the First, Charles the Second, James the Second, and William the Third. The office of garbeller, however, fell into desuetude, and the last mention made of it is in July 1687, when a “Mr. Stuart, the city garbeller, offered to purchase “the Company’s right in the garbling of spices and other “garbleable merchandize.” The Court, finding that, “from long disuse, their privilege of appointment to that “office was weakened, they accepted a small fine of £50, “from Mr. Stuart for the office for life, and twenty shillings per annum.”

I have already mentioned that the original *Ordinances* of this Company were kept in Norman French, and, I should have added, partly in Latin; as some confusion arose from this irregular mode of inscribing the acts and proceedings, it was resolved, in 1418, during the Mastership of Robert Chichely, that they should be translated into English. This was not, in all probability, executed to the satisfaction of the Court of Assistants; for, in 1463, Alderman William Marow being Master, the whole was renewed or re-copied, as appears from the following entry:

“In the tyme of William Marowe, Alderman, and alsoe of  
 “John Crosbie and William Browne, Wardeyns, namelie,  
 “of y<sup>e</sup>. Mysterie or Brotherhode of Groceres of the Cittie  
 “of London, elected y<sup>e</sup>. 29 daie of y<sup>e</sup>. moneth of Augустe,  
 “in y<sup>e</sup>. yeere of owre Lorde 1463, and in y<sup>e</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup> yeere of  
 “King Edward IV. this boke was renewed.” New Ordinances were made, confirming and improving those already cited, and, further providing for the security and interests of the Fraternity. They relate chiefly to the obligation of secrecy on the part of the members, to the promotion of brotherly love, and, as the chief means of effecting this, it was ordained “that yf anye debatis arose  
 “betwixt anye two members, for misgovernaunce of wordes,  
 “or askyng of dette, or anye othere thyng, the partie  
 “playntif should come to the Maistres for the yere, and  
 “telle his grievaunce,” and the Master was to make an

1463.  
First trans-  
lation of  
the Ordin-  
ances in  
to English.

end thereof; but if he could not, then, “ by leve of the ‘‘ Maistre they might goe to the Lawe;” which, I hope, none of them had the imprudence to do. For a considerable time after these new arrangements, there is no notice of any occurrence worth relating; the entries are confined to the registering of apprentices and freemen, to the elections of Wardens, and to the details of accounts of expenditure. As some of these are curious and worth preserving, I shall give a few extracts from them in the Appendix; their insertion here being superfluous, and calculated only to interrupt the course of the narrative.

The Refer-  
nation.

1556.

Although there is no special mention of the fact, it is clear, from a variety of entries in the books, that the Grocers' Company went with the stream at the Reformation, and adopted the Protestant faith, in which they appear to have continued until Queen Mary came to the throne. The first act of her reign was the restoration of the Catholic religion; and this Company, in common with the others, was compelled to adopt, or to appear to adopt, the ancient faith. I find, accordingly, that on Sunday, June 8, 1556, “ My maistres the Aldermen, the War-“ deyns, and the hole Liverie, assembled at their comon “ house, called Grocers' Hawll, and from thens they went “ to their churche, called St. Steven's, Wallbrooke; where “ they heard dirge songe; and, that being ended, they “ returned to their sayde Hawll, where they drank ac-“ cording to their olde custome; and after, as many as “ were members, went to the election of their new War-“ deyn;” and, on the day following, (Monday,) the whole Livery came to the Hall at ten o'clock in the morning, and again went to St. Stephen's, where a sermon was preached by Mr. Christopher, “ and the masse of *Requiem* “ songe by note;” and, that done, they returned to the Hall to dinner, after which, they crowned Sir John Ayliffe, Knight and Alderman, their upper Warden.\* The War-

\* The Grocers had, originally, founded a chantry in the church of St. Anthony, which had been suppressed at the Reformation. At this period,

dens were then requested to provide “ an honest preste, of “ goode fame,” to wait upon the Livery when they attended burials, or on other occasions, “ where he might be “ needed.” Sir John Harste, being appointed to this office, put in his humble suit “ to be allowed the two “ lodgings adjoyning the parsonage of St. Steven’s, Wall-“ brooke, for his lodging there during pleasure, upon his “ regularlie attending the Companie.” The rectory of St. Stephen’s, being vacant at this period, three priests made suit for it to the Company, and one Dr. Staple was elected; but as Bonner, the Bishop of London, refused to approve of this appointment, it is most probable that the said Dr. Staple was not considered by him as a genuine Catholic.\* From this nomination, we may infer that the members of the Grocers’ Company, in outwardly resuming the restored religion, yielded to force and not to conviction. A Mr. Busby was afterwards elected to the living.

The first compulsory loan levied upon the city was at the commencement of the year 1558, and it had for object to enable Queen Mary to prosecute that war with France which proved so injurious to the English interests, and which occasioned the loss of the city of Calais. Maitland mentions the sum required as being £20,000, and he states the interest allowed upon it to have been at the rate of twelve per cent. He is evidently wrong in the amount, as the Company’s records state it to be £65,000, and that their proportion of it was £7,055 . 11 . 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ , which was raised by individual contributions among the members.†

1558.  
A Loan.

they sought to recover it, as appears by the following entry:—“ Master Osborne to be consulted as to an Exchequer writ to be sent to the possessors and occupiers, or receivers, of the profits of the late chaunterie in the church of Saint Antonie’s, of London, of the foundation of the craft of Grocers.” The matter came to nothing.

\* “ On pretence of discouraging controversy, she (the queen) silenced, by an act of prerogative, all the preachers throughout England, except such as should obtain a particular license; and it was easy to foresee that none but the Catholics would be favoured with this privilege.”—*Hume’s History of England*, vol. iv.

† About this period the sovereigns were frequently in the habit of bor-

Final re-  
storation  
of the Pro-  
testant Re-  
ligion.

1559.

So much were men displeased with the conduct of affairs during the reign of Mary, and such were their apprehensions of futurity, that a general and unfeigned joy was manifested on the accession of Queen Elizabeth to the throne. Her education, as well as her interest, induced her to favour the Reformation, and she did not long hesitate with respect to the party she should adopt. The Protestant religion was once more established ; and, accordingly, on the 5th of April 1559, the Company's books describe the Wardens and Livery as going to St. Stephen's church, previous to the election, "to heare divine service," and attending, on the following day, "a solemne sermon," after which the holy communion was administered to the members. They, finally, got rid of all traces of the Roman Catholic religion by ordering, in 1563, "sale to be made " of alle the vestyments, copes, albes, and other ornaments " belonginge to churche stufte, nowe remayninge in this " howse, (the Hall,) for the most commoditie of the Com- " panie."

Pageant at  
Green-  
wich.

On the 12th July, 1559, the twelve principal corporations of London sent out the same number of Companies, consisting together of fourteen hundred men, to be mustered in Greenwich-park before the Queen; eight hundred whereof were pikemen in bright armour, four hundred harquebussiers in coats of mail and helmets, and two hundred halberdiers in German rivets. These troops were attended by twenty-eight whifflers, richly dressed, and led by the twelve principal Wardens of the aforesaid corporations, well mounted, and dressed in black velvet, with six ensigns in white satin, faced with black sarsnet, and rich

rowing small sums of money for their immediate necessities. In 1562, "the queene sent lettres of privie seale to the Companie for a hundredth " powndes to be paide to her Grace's use, by waie of lone, for a certeyn " time mentioned in the same lettres, to be certeynley repaide agayn."

In August 1575, was received "a precepte of the Lord Mayor to this " howse to prepare £134.6.8, to be lent to the Queene's Majestie, for " one whole yeare, and if they had not soe much in store, they were " commanded to borrowe the some, at interest, at the costes and charges " of their hawl."

searfs.\* The Grocers' contribution to this brilliant pageant is noticed as follows, in a precept from the Lord Mayor, which orders, " 190 personnes, apte and picked men ; whereof " 60 to be with calyvers, flasks, touche-boxes, morions, " swordes, and daggers ; 95 to be in corselettes, with hal- " bertes, swordes, and daggers, for a shewe at Greenwich." These kind of exhibitions were several times repeated.

On the 8th July 1560, a notice was received from the Lord Mayor, " that £400 was to be gathered of this Com-  
" panie for a provision of corne for the city ; the sayd  
" summe to be paide at the Guyldhalle the 15th of the  
" followyng month, on account of the expected great and  
" excessive price of wheate and graine, and also the greate  
" scarcitie and wante of the same that there was, and was  
" verie likelie shortlie to encrease, by reason of the greate  
" excesse and abundance of raine and unseasonable wea-  
" ther it has pleased Almighty God, of late, to send within  
" the realme, if some good remedie, provision, and staie  
" should not be speedilie provided for the same ; and, it is  
" furthere ordered, to avoide the same, that there shall be  
" taken up and made, with all convenient expedition, of  
" the Companies and Fellowshippes within the cittie, a  
" verie good and substantialle masse and somme of money  
" to provide and buy corne withalle, as well beyond the  
" sea as elsewhere, towards which they are assessed as  
" above." The object of this precept was to induce the Companies of London to keep by them a stock of corn, from which the poor were to be supplied, at periods when bread was dear, with meal at reasonable rates. This is demonstrated by the following notice, entered on the minutes in March 1616 :—A precept was received from the Lord Mayor, directing the Company " to furnish 6 quar-  
" ters of wheate meale to be sold at the markett of Queene-  
" hythe, everie Wednesday to the poore." The plan of keeping a store of corn for this benevolent purpose, was excellent, and was continued for many years ; the Com-

The Com-  
pany's  
store of  
corn.

\* Stowe's Annals.—Maitland's History of London, vol. i. p. 254.

pany had regular granaries at Bridewell and at the Bridge-house, and made their purchases when corn was cheap ; selling it, from time to time, to prevent its spoiling, and replacing what was disposed of by new wheat.

James I.'s application to the Company for corn.

There is one very singular fact connected with the store of corn, which I cannot avoid citing, as it shews the streights to which the royal household was occasionally reduced for want of money, during the reign of James the Ist. On the 1st of October 1622, the Wardens received a letter from the Duke of Lennox, Lord High Steward; Sir Thomas Edmonds, Lord Treasurer; and Sir John Suckling, Comptroller of the royal household ; which, after being read to the Court of Assistants, was transcribed, *verbatim*, in the proceedings of the Company, and I here insert it at length ;

“ To our lovinge friends the Wardens and Assistants of the  
“ Company of Grocers of the City of London.

“ After our hearty commendations ; whereas by the neg-  
“ lect of His Ma<sup>ties</sup> purveyors, his house is att this tyme  
“ altogeaither unfurnished with wheate, by means whereof  
“ there is a present want of 100 quarters of wheate for the  
“ service of his household, wee doe therefore pray and desire  
“ you, that out of your stock, His Ma<sup>tie</sup> may be supplied  
“ with 30 or 40 quarters of your best and sweatest wheate,  
“ untill his owne provision may be brought in ; the which  
“ we doe faithfully promise shall be payd unto you agayne  
“ in November next att the furthest, and, because itt is  
“ intended that by the exchange thereof you shall have noe  
“ losse, we have, therefore, committed the care thereof to  
“ Mr. Harvye, one of His Ma<sup>ties</sup> officers of the Grenclothe,  
“ who shall see the same duelye answeared and brought  
“ into your granarie by the tyme appoynted ; and soe, not  
“ doubtyng of your willinge performance uppon soe present  
“ and needfull occasion, wee bidd you heartilie farewell.  
“ Whitehall, the 27 of September 1622.

“ Your loving friends,      “ LENOX.

“ THOMAS EDMONDS.

“ JOHN SUCKLINGE.”

This curious document, although signed by three of the greatest men in the state, failed of producing its full effect, for there appears to have been great hesitation, on the part of the members, to accede to the demand; but the officer mentioned in the letter, being in attendance, promised “soe to mediate, that ten quarters should be taken in “satisfaction of the whole demande;” and, accordingly, that quantity was ordered to be lent to his Majesty; but whether it was ever repaid does not appear.

In the following reign, anno 1631, the Lord Mayor informed the Company that “divers merchants trading “to the East countries, had, of late, brought into the “kingdome great quantities of corne, (being rye,) which, “for quality, was as good or better than the growth of “this kingdome, though they had no vend for it;” that, on the suggestion of the Lords of the Privy Council, they were contented to sell it at 8*d.* per bushel less than it cost them; and that the said Lords, as well for their relief as for the encouragement of future speculators, had recommended the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to press the Companies to buy it at the prices offered, blaming him for not having compelled them so to do. The Lord Mayor’s letter goes on, therefore, to command them, in conformity with this recommendation, to repair to Mr. Alderman Clitheroe, Governor of the Eastland Company, and to purchase 500 quarters of that rye, at 6*s.* 6*d.* a bushel, “beinge one-half of this Companie’s proportion, “at the rate of 10,000 quarters, which they were bound “to have in store, accordinge to ancient custome, and “that they should laye up the same in the Companie’s “granarie, in readinesse for supplying the citie marketts, “as occasion may require.” Whereto, “after a grave, “mature, and deliberate debate,” the Court ordered, that answer should be returned with all humble respect;

1st, That the act of Common Council, ordering the Companies to provide corn, expressed only wheat, and not rye.

2dly, That they had hitherto furnished the markets and

wards, agreeably to his Lordship's directions, to their apparent loss of £400 at the least, and were yet stored with 400 quarters for future supply, which proportion, they conceived, would be sufficient till harvest, when (God willing) they hoped to renew their store upon better and more easy rates.

3dly, That, besides the proportion of corn they then had, they expected the performance of a contract, from Mr. Burlamach of 200 quarters more.

4thly, That they found, by their experience and loss, notwithstanding the great scarcity and dearth, that the poor would not receive or use meal of either barley or rye alone, nor yet with the mixture of two-third parts of wheat with it, so that 500 quarters of rye would require 1500 quarters of wheat to be put to it, and they, therefore, conceived it impossible for the Company to undertake such a bargain. They state, besides, that, in winter, when wheat was very dear, and scarcely to be had, they were constrained to buy rye to mix with wheat, to furnish the necessity of the market at that time ; but they found the city markets then so slack for that commodity, that the greater part of what was then bought, remained still on their hands for want of purchasers, to the Company's great loss ; and they further contended " that there had been no " public contract made for any corn with the merchants " mentioned, and they conceived, therefore, that they " had only bought it in hope of profit, for which purpose " they landed some part of it upon the coast ; and divers " other merchants, both Dutch and English, had likewise " brought in great quantities, which they offered to sell at " 5s. the bushel, which was the cause of the said loss, it " being a thing usually incident to merchants to receive " loss by overloading of a market with any commodity." They therefore humbly prayed to be excused.

In 1642, the Court of Aldermen having communicated to the Court the distressed situation of the Protestants in Londonderry, who, in a petition, prayed for a supply of corn, requested a contribution from the Company's store ;

upon which one hundred quarters were ordered to be issued for the purpose. After the Restoration, in 1660, a sum of £12,000 was levied, by the Common Council, upon the Companies of the city, “ to be laid out in corne as a ‘ present to the King’s Majestie.’” The proportion of the Grocers was £1080, which they freely gave “ as an acte ‘ of honor and respect from the cittie, and which may in ‘ due time conduce to the singular advantage and benefit ‘ the Companie.’” The stock of corn was constantly kept up, as before stated, until the great fire of London in 1666; the Company’s property having been then entirely destroyed, the custom was discontinued. I should have stated that the money for this purpose was levied by a personal contribution from the members, and that two of the livery were, from time to time, appointed by the Court of Assistants, under the name of “ Corne Renters,” to collect it.

One of the popular acts of Queen Elizabeth’s reign was 1561. the restoration of the circulating medium to a just standard and value; it was naturally expected that this would have been followed by a decline in the prices of all kinds of commodities; but the dealers evidently conspired to keep them up, as appears by a curious article inserted in the Company’s books:—

In the year 1561 the Wardens of the Mercer’s Company being summoned before the Queen’s council “ for uttering “ and selling velvetts, sattens, and damaskes” at the great prices they did; “ considering her Majesty had brought her “ base coin to as fine a coin as ever was in England; “ which baseness of coin had been thentofore their’s and “ other’s excuses for the high prices of all manner of wares, “ and that the nobility and gentry perceived no amendment “ of the prices of the said sorts of silks, to the great offence “ of her Grace.” The Mercers replied, that they had no power or authority over those who sold silks, except they were members of their own Company, and that retail dealers of other Companies were much more faulty: in proof whereof, they requested their Honours would send for

the *Grocers*, and take them to task, promising for themselves to make such reform as would give satisfaction. It is most probable, that some communication was made to the Company on this subject, as the above appears in the records; but as no further notice is taken of it, we have no means of ascertaining whether the *Grocers* proceeded to recommend a reduction in the prices of commodities to the members of their fraternity.

1567.  
First lottery in  
England.

It has already been stated, that Queen Elizabeth, whose treasury was frequently at a very low ebb, made occasional applications to the Companies of London for the loan of small sums of money. She resorted, besides, to other modes of sustaining her finances, such as, discharging her obligations to her servants and dependants, by granting them patents for monopolies, which they sold to others; an impolitic proceeding on her part, which created general discontent.\* In 1567 she borrowed a hint from some of the continental governments, and had recourse to the expedient of a lottery, the first ever known in England. The science of puffing, which, in our times, has attained such perfection, was unknown at that period, and, in lieu of placards and advertisements, she appears to have adopted

\* "She granted her servants and courtiers patents for monopolies; "and those patents they sold to others, who were thereby enabled to "raise commodities to what price they pleased, and who put invincible "restraints upon all commerce, industry, and emulation in the arts. It "is astonishing to consider the number and importance of those commo- "dities, which were thus assigned over to patentees. Currants, salt, "iron, powder, cards, calf-skins, felts, pouldavies, ox-shin bones, train "oil, lists of cloth, &c. &c. These are but a part of the commodities, "which had been appropriated to monopolists. When this list was read "in the house, a member cried, *Is not bread in the number? Bread!* said "every one with astonishment: *Yes, I assure you,* replied he, *if affairs "go on at this rate, we shall have bread reduced to a monopoly before the "next parliament.*"—*Hume's History of England*, vol. v.

In 1575, a precept was read to the Court by the Wardens, of a license granted by the Queen's Majesty to one *Acerbo Devitello*, an Italian, that he only should bring into this realm "comon and sallet oyle, and he to "sell the same to any person he will, foreign or freeman, and at his owne "beame," which being thought prejudicial to the freemen of the city, a petition to the Mayor and Aldermen, on the subject, was ordered to be drawn up.

the more direct mode of personal solicitation. A notice in the records, dated November 1567, sets forth, that the Lord Mayor sent a precept to the Wardens, to acquaint them, that he had received from the Lords of the Queen's most honourable Privy Council, in her Grace's name, a letter "in comedacion of the lotterie lately published by "her Highness, which, for the furtherance of the same, "did require, that the Wardens would call the Companie "together, and exhort the same to adventure some rea- "sonable sum toward the preferment of the same lotterie."\* The contents of this letter being considered, every one of the Company present promised "to put in somewhat, as "to themselves should seem good." It was also resolved, that the Wardens should, of the goods of the house, "ad- "venture and put into the said lotterie, the some of £xx, "which is for xxxx lotterie shares," and the Court to be a sufficient warrant for the same. The posie to be this—

" For the Grocers' Hawll,  
" A lott greate or small."

It was likewise thought good, that the Master and Wardens should cause the whole Livery and Commonalty to assemble "to the end the like exhortation might be made to them." The lottery here mentioned is described in a very curious and rare tract, in the Guildhall library, entitled, "*The great frost; cold doings in London, except it be at the lotterie. A familiar talke betweene a coun- tryman and a citizen, touching this terrible frost and the great lotterie, and the effects of them.*" The following dialogue occurs in it :

*Countryman.—*" I remember, in the eleventh yere of "the raigne of Queene Elizabeth, a lotterie began here in "London, in which, if my memorie faile not, were foure "hundred thousand lotts to be drawne.

\* This lottery was drawn at the western door of Saint Paul's Cathedral.  
—*Mailland's History of London.*

*Citizen.*—“ You say right ; so much still lies in my memorie.

*Countryman.*—“ Marry, that lotterie was for money, “ and everie lott was ten shillings. Then there was another “ great lotterie about the eight and twentie yeere of the “ same Queene’s raigne, which began in the middle of “ sommer, and was for rich and costly armours, guylt and “ engraven. To win these armors, *all the Companies of* “ *the Cittie* ventured generall summes of money.”

Various entries demonstrate that the Company were fortunate and gained several prizes, but the amounts of them are not specified. It is clear, however, that they were very tardily, if ever, paid. In one place we find mention of persons appointed “ to receive the lotterie money;” and later, in 1571, four years after the drawing, it is stated, that “ money is coming to this house for the lotterie;” and that, as “ certen of the Companie, for their adventure in “ the lotterie, have not been paid,” it is agreed to supplicate the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, “ to take some “ order for the payment thereof.” It is evident that this measure was attended with no beneficial result, for there is not one entry in the accounts to shew that the prizes were ever paid. About 45 years after the Company were more fortunate; for, in December 1612, the following entry occurs ; “ A faire round salt and cover, all of silver guylt. “ weighing 44½ ounces 1 dwt., was received by the War- “ dens, in regard of £13 . 10 . happening to them in the “ late lotterie, made for the plantation in Virginia, upon “ their adventure of putting in of £62 . 5 . and for 19s. 6d. “ more, paid by the Master and Wardens for the same.” These are the only two occasions on which mention of lotteries is made in the records ; and although these traps for the unwary were of frequent occurrence afterwards, the Company, no doubt, profited sufficiently by the experience they had purchased, and abstained from venturing in them.

1568.  
Campion,  
the Jesuit.

It is well known that Queen Elizabeth, for having re-established the Protestant faith, was excommunicated

by a bull of Pope Pius V. Granger, alluding to this fact, adds that, “ as she was the main pillar of the “ Reformed Religion, she was compelled by the great “ law of necessity, though not without grief and reluctance, “ to let loose the laws against seminary priests and jesuits, “ her known enemies, as her personal safety and that of “ her kingdom depended upon it.” It is a curious fact, that one of the most formidable of these jesuits, and the first of that sect who suffered martyrdom in this reign, was Edmund Campion, an exhibitioner or scholar of the Grocers’ Company at Oxford.\* Before he formally adopted the doctrines of the Church of Rome, suspicions of his orthodoxy were entertained, and the Court of Assistants felt themselves bound to make inquiries into the subject; the particulars of their proceedings and the final result of them are thus detailed in the books in the year 1658:

“ To accorde and clere the suspicions conceived of  
“ Edmond Campion and one of this Companies’ scollers,  
“ that he may utter his mind in favoring the religion now  
“ authorized ; it is agreed that, between this and Candle-  
“ mas next, he shall com and preache at Pawll’s Crosse  
“ in London, or ells the Companie’s exhibitions to cease  
“ and be apoynted to another ; and that he shall have  
“ warnynge thereof from Mr. Wardens to provide him-  
“ self.” Campion evidently disliked the proposed ordeal, for a subsequent entry states, that he, “ being one of the  
“ Companie’s scollers, and suspected to be of unsound  
“ judgment in religion,” petitioned them to postpone “ the  
“ clearing of himself herein by preaching of a sermon at  
“ Pawl’s Crosse, unto Michaelmasse,” which was agreed to. It is afterwards mentioned, that he presented himself at a Court of the Company, “ to know their pleasure as  
“ to this business?” He expressed great disinclination to preach at the Cross, and entreated, at all events, to be

\* A head of Campion was printed at Rome, with this inscription attached to it:—“ P. Edmund Campianus, qui primus e Societ. Jesu  
“ Londini, pro fide Cathol. Martyrium consummavit. 1 Dec. 1581.”

allowed further time for preparation. The Court, taking in good part that he did not absolutely refuse, were satisfied to allow him first to preach, "as a less nottable place than 'Pawll's Crosse,' at their church of St. Stephen's, Wallbrook. On this being communicated to him, he again endeavoured to evade the trial, and, on the plea of being "a publick person, that could not do what he would, and "that he was beside charged with the education of divers "worshippfull men's children," he asked a longer time. As the Company would not consent to this, he requested a note, in writing, containing the precise nature of their desires. Having obtained this and not choosing to comply with its contents, he, subsequently, resigned his exhibition at the university, and the Company appointed another man in his place.

As this extraordinary man obtained great celebrity in his time, and as he was in some degree attached to the Grocers' Company, it may not be irrelevant to give a brief sketch of his life. Edmund Campion was educated at Christ's Hospital, in London, whence he removed to Saint John's College, Oxford. He there distinguished himself as an orator and a disputant, in both which capacities he entertained Queen Elizabeth at a public act, when she visited the university. He soon after became a convert to the Church of Rome, and retired to the college at Douay, where he took his bachelor of divinity's degrees. In 1573, he travelled to Rome, where he became a jesuit, and was soon after sent by his superiors, as a missionary, into Germany, where he composed his Latin tragedy, intituled *Nectar and Ambrogia*, which was acted with great applause in the presence of the Emperor. The last scene of his life was in England, where he was regarded as a dangerous adversary to the Established Church. He was executed at Tyburn, the 1st of December, 1581.\* His

\* "Campion was detected in treasonable practices; and being put to the rack, and confessing his guilt, he was publicly executed."—*Hume's History of England*, vol. v.

writings show him to have been a man of various and polite learning. His *Decem rationes*, written against the Protestant Religion, have been solidly answered by several of our best divines. The orginal manuscript of his History of Ireland is in the British Museum.\* The jesuit Paul Bambino has left a History of the Life and Martyrdom of his Colleague, which concludes with these words—“ Deo “ laus, B.Q.V.M. M. et beatissimo nostrorum martyrum “ Anglorum principi, Edmundo Campiano.”

However inclined we may be to view the transactions of the Catholics, at this period, in a liberal light, it cannot be denied that they acted against the existing laws in endeavouring, by intrigues, by libels, and conspiracies, to procure the subversion of the established religion. A precept from the Lord Mayor, illustrative of this act, is thus noticed in the books:—

1571.  
Conspira-  
cy of the  
Duke of  
Norfolk.

“ On the 16th October, 1571, the Wardens made an exhortation to the generaltie of this Companie upon the declaration of certain conspiracies.” They informed them of “ the greate zeale and love of the Queene’s Majestie towards her good cytezens of this Citie of London; who, with her owne mouthe, declared the same unto the Lords of her Highness Privie Counseyl, willing them to declare the same unto the Lord Maior, the Aldermen, and Comoners of the said cytie, viz. that her Grace doth hope that the good cytezens doe well like of her Grace’s government. And whereas there be now certen persoñes comytted to saff kepyng, that the same ys for matters of greate weyght and ymportance; for there ys uttered and com to knowledge, by the greate goodnes of the Almightye God, suche horyble conspyracies as did extende to the destruccion of her Ma<sup>ties</sup> person (whom we beseeche God of his infinyte mercye, long to continue in good and prosperous estate) and also to the subvercion of her Grace’s govern-

\* Granger’s Biographical History of England. Supplement.

“ ment and to the utter destruccion of this noble cytie,  
“ for evin aboue this tyme shuld certen evill persones  
“ have gathered themselves into this cytie, and sodenly  
“ made an uproare in the same and then should certen  
“ straungers owte of the Low Countreyes of Flanders  
“ have enterid at som porte nighe unto the cytie, to ayde  
“ them in there devylishe enterpryse unto the which the  
“ spoyle of the cytie was p'mesy<sup>d</sup>; so that yf Almyghtie  
“ God had not disapoyned there ungodly purpose, we had  
“ all been utterlie undone; and yet the enemyes, that is  
“ to saye, the Pope, Duke Alva, and there adherents,  
“ have promysed to be redy to fynishe there said entre-  
“ prye, assoone as occasion shall serve. Wherefore yet  
“ it is necessarie for us to be all vigylant and carefuller over  
“ this cytie, and specialy everie man in his owne howse;  
“ and alsoe yf any of us heare any evyl disposed psones  
“ go abowte to allow, maynteyne, or defende any of those  
“ that be now justely comytted to saf kepyng, that we  
“ cawse the same to be apprehendyd, and to informe the  
“ Lord Maior thereof, that suche evyll members may have  
“ condigne punishment for their mysdemeanor. God save  
“ the Quene's Ma'tie and confownde her enemyes. Amen!”  
The conspiracy here alluded to is that of which the Duke of Norfolk was the head, and, for which, he, in the year 1572, lost his life on the scaffold. His object was, partly, to procure the restoration of the Roman Catholic Religion, and, partly, to obtain the liberation of Mary, Queen of Scots, who had given him a promise of marriage, in case of success. His principal agent was a Florentine merchant, named Rodolfi, who managed all the correspondence with the court of Rome, and who communicated with the Duke of Alva respecting the proposed invasion of England by the Spanish forces.\* It must be admitted that the Queen, in the above communication to the citizens, contrives very artfully to mix up her own danger with their safety.

\* Hume's History of England, vol. v.

The probability of Elizabeth's marriage with the Duke of Anjou was very strongly rumoured at the commencement of the year 1579, and was generally displeasing to the nation. A book, written by Stubbs,\* a puritan clergyman, against the proposed match, was every where read with avidity, and created a strong sensation; so much so, that the Queen thought it necessary to order an address to be issued to the citizens, by the Mayor, for its suppression; and, accordingly, we find an entry in the Company's records to the following effect:

1579.  
Stubbs's  
Book.

On the 16th of September, 1579, all the members of the Company were called together by the Wardens, in consequence of a precept from the Lord Mayor, to give them warning "that they should be verye carefull in per-  
 " formynge all things that are contayned in her Ma<sup>tie</sup>'s  
 " proclamacon latelie set owte, which doth contayne the  
 " forbyddinge of the having, redinge, or kepinge of any  
 " of the sedition libells that have of late byne exposed  
 " abrode against the Duke of Anjoye and his embassa-  
 " dours, and to the distorbinge and troblinge of the  
 " Queen's Matie's subjects, and in dryvinge a mistrust  
 " and great dowte of alteracion of religion; and ernest  
 " warnynge was given to them all, that her Ma<sup>tie</sup>'s pleasure  
 " ys that no person, which hath regarde to her Matie's  
 " honor, do esteme of the said sedicious booke or the  
 " maynteanors or spreaders thereof, otherwise than as  
 " traytors devyse to discredit her Ma<sup>tie</sup> with her good  
 " subjects, and that her Ma<sup>tie</sup> doth wille and straightlie  
 " charge, that all the said bookes or libells shall be de-  
 " stroyed in open sight of some publique officer, and that

\* " Henry Stubbs was a puritan divine, of distinguished merit, who was educated at Wadham College, Oxford. In 1564, when he resided in the city of Wells, he was appointed one of the Commissioners for ejecting *ignorant and scandalous ministers*. Mr. Wood speaks of him as a seditious preacher; but Dr. Calamy, who is acknowledged to be a writer of more candour, gives us a very different character of him, and represents him as a man of great humility, meekness, and charity, and above all factious inducements."—*Granger's Biog. History of England*, vol. iii.

“ the favourers and with howlders thereof, are to attached  
“ to answer accordinge to the demeritts.

“ God save the Queene’s Majestie.”

The members of the Company all promised compliance, but they were slow in performing, as two other precepts, to the same effect, were issued before the books were brought in.

1584.  
The Company’s declaration of loyalty.

The zeal and vigilance of the Queen’s ministers, Burleigh and Walsingham, had been kept in constant activity by the conspiracies detected, from time to time, in various parts of the country. Many of them were, with great appearance of reason, attributed to the intrigues of Mary Queen of Scots ; others were laid to the charge of the Catholics. To neutralize this spirit of disaffection, an association, in support of the government, was set on foot by the Earl of Leicester and other individuals attached to the court ; and, as Elizabeth was generally popular, multitudes willingly came forward to sign a declaration which emanated from it. The document, although rather long, is curious ; and, as I have never met with it in the works of any historian, I shall transcribe it from the Company’s records, in which it is to be found entire. It is conceived in the following terms :—

“ *Memorandum.*—That the xj daye of November,  
“ 1584, the Assistants and Liverie assembled to  
“ geather at the Hall, to seale and subscribe unto  
“ two severall rolles of parchment, and to take  
“ oathes to performe the articles followinge, beinge  
“ entred at the beginnyng of the same rolles,  
“ beinge sent from the Lord Maior, by direction  
“ from the Lord Chauncelor, together with the  
“ oathe hereafter also followinge.

“ Forasmuche as Allmighty God hath ordayne Kinges,  
“ Queenes, and Princes to have dominion and rule over  
“ all theire subjects, and to preserve them in the profession  
“ and obligation of the true Christian religion, accordinge

“ to his holie word and commandement, and in like sorte  
“ that all subjects should love, feare, and obey theire Sove-  
“ raigne Princes, beinge Kinges or Queenes, and to the  
“ uttermost of their powers at all tymes to withstande,  
“ pursue, and suppresse, all manner of personnes that  
“ shall, by any meanes intende and attempte anny thinge  
“ daungerous or hurtfull to the honors, estates, or per-  
“ sonnes of theire soveraignes: Thearefore, we, whos names  
“ are or shall be subscribed to this writinge, beinge naturall  
“ borne subjects of this realme of England, and havinge  
“ soe gracious a Ladye our Soveraigne Elizabeth, by the  
“ ordynance of God, our most rightfull Queene, raigninge  
“ over us theis many yeares with greate felicitie to our  
“ inestimable comfort; and findinge, of late, by dyvers  
“ depositions, confessions, and sondrye advertisements out  
“ of foraigne partes by credible personnes well knownen to  
“ her Majestie’s Counsell, and to divers others, that, for  
“ the furtherance and advancement of some pretended  
“ title to the crowne of this realme, yt hath bin manyfest  
“ that the life of our gracious Soveraigne Ladye Queen  
“ Elizabeth hath bin most traiterouslie and devilishlie  
“ sought, and the same followed most daungerouslie to the  
“ peril of her personne, yf Almightye God, her perpetuall  
“ defence, of his mercie had not revealed and withstood  
“ the same; by whos life, we, and all other her Ma<sup>tie</sup>e’s  
“ loyall and true subjectes doe injoye an inestimable bene-  
“ fitt of peace in this land, doe for the reasons and causes  
“ before alledged, not onlie acknowledge ourselves most  
“ justlie bound with our lives, landes, and goodes, in her  
“ defence and for her safetie, to withstand, pursue, and  
“ suppresse, all suche mischievous personnes, and all other  
“ her enemies, of what nation, condition, or degree soever  
“ they be, or by what color or title they shall pretende to  
“ be her enemies, or to attempte any harme unto her per-  
“ sonne: But we do alsoe think it our most bownden dutie,  
“ for the greate benefitt of peace and godlie governement,  
“ which we have more plentifullie received, theis manie

“ years, under her Ma<sup>tie</sup>s government, than our forefathers  
“ have done in any longer tyme of any other her Progeni-  
“ tors, Kinges of this realme, to declare and, by this  
“ wrytinge, make manifest our loyall and bounden dutie to  
“ our saide Soveraigne Ladie for her safetie, and to that  
“ ende, we and everye of us, first callinge to witnesse the  
“ holie name of Almightye God, doe voluntarilie and most  
“ willinglie binde our selves, everye one of us to the other,  
“ joyntlie and severallie, in the bonde of one firme and  
“ loyall societe, and doe hereby vowe and promise, before  
“ the Majestie of Almightye God, that with our wholl  
“ powers, bodies, lives, landes, and goodes, and with our  
“ children and seruautes, we, and everie of us, will faith-  
“ fullie serve and humblie obeye our sayde Soveraigne  
“ Ladie Queene Elizabeth, against all estates, dignities,  
“ and earthlie powers whatsoeuer, and will, as well with  
“ our joynte as particular forthcominge our lives, withstande,  
“ offendre, and pursue, as well by force of armes, as by all  
“ other meanes of revenge, all manner of personnes, of  
“ what estate soever they shall be, and theire abettors, that  
“ shall attempte any acte, counsell, or consent to any thinge  
“ that shall tende to the harme of her Ma<sup>tie</sup>s royall personne,  
“ and we shall never desiste from all manner of forcible  
“ pursuite against such personnes, to the uttermost exter-  
“ mination of them, their counsellors, aiders, and abettors;  
“ and if any such wicked attempt against her Ma<sup>tie</sup>s most  
“ royall persone shall be taken in hand or procured,  
“ whereby any that have, maie, or shall pretende title to  
“ come to this realme, by the untimelie deathe of her Ma<sup>tie</sup>,  
“ be wickedlie procured (which God, for his mercye sake,  
“ forbidd) maie be advanced, we doe not onlie vowe and  
“ binde our selves, bothe joyntrie and severallie, never to  
“ allowe, accept, or favour any such pretended successor,  
“ by whom, or for whom any suche detestable acte shall be  
“ attempted or committed, or anye that maie any waye  
“ clayme, by or from such personne or pretended successor  
“ as ys aforesaide, by whom, or for whom such an acte

" shall be attempted or committed, as unworthie of all  
 " government in any Christian realme or civill societie, but  
 " doe also further vowe and protest, as we are most  
 " bounden, and that in the presence of the eternal and ever  
 " livinge God, to persecute such person or persons to the  
 " deathe, with our joynt or particular forces, and to take  
 " the uttermost revenge on them that, by any possible  
 " meanes, we, or any of us, can devyse and doe, or cause  
 " to be devised or done, for their utter overthrowe and  
 " exterpation; and to the better corroboration of this our  
 " loyall bond and association, we doe also testifie by this  
 " wrytinge, that we doe confirme the contentes hereof by  
 " our oathes, corporallie taken upon the holie Evangelists,  
 " with this expresse condition, that no one of us shall, for  
 " any respecte of personnes or causes, for feare or rewardre,  
 " separate ourselves from this association, or faile in the  
 " prosecution hereof during our lives, upon paine to be by  
 " the rest of us prosecuted and suppressed as perjured  
 " personnes, and as publique enemyes to God, our Queene,  
 " or native countreye. To which punishment & paynes we  
 " doe voluntarilie submitt ourselves and everie of us with-  
 " out benefitt of any exception to be hereafter challengd  
 " by any color or pretexte. In wittenesse of all which  
 " promises to be inviolable kept, we doe to this writinge  
 " put our handes & seales, and shall be most reddy to  
 " accept and admitt any others hereafter to this societie  
 " and association. Dated the sixt daye of November,  
 " anno Reg<sup>æ</sup> Elizab. xxvj<sup>to</sup>. A. D<sup>ni</sup>. 1584."

The oath alluded to in the above declaration was as follows:

" I, A. B., havinge throughlie & advisedlie waied and  
 " considered the contents of this present instrument of  
 " association, through God's good grace, doe promise most  
 " faithfullie, under my hand and seale, to performe the  
 " same to the uttermost of my power. So help me God,  
 " and the holie contentes of this booke."

Signed by seventy-two members, whose names are given.

**1591.**  
Ships of  
war fur-  
nished by  
the City.

After the destruction of the Spanish Armada, the Queen and her government resolved to increase the naval force of the nation, for the purpose of acting against the Spaniards, on their own coasts and elsewhere. Letters were received by the Lord Mayor from the Lord Treasurer, and from the Lord Admiral of England, written “at the “requeste of the Queene’s most excellent Majestie, that “six shippes of war and one pynasse should be furnyshed “and set forth by the Cittie, for her Majestie’s service, “and that £8,000 should be levied out of the Halls of the “Cittie, by an equall and indifferente assessmente.” The Grocers were naturally compelled to furnish their proportion, which the accounts shew to have amounted to the sum of £622 . 10 . 1. A further sum of £526 was levied on the members in August 1596, for a similar purpose, namely “for the setting forth of the shippes and pynasses “latelie furnyshed by the Cittie, under the Right Honour-“able the Earl of Essex and the Lord Admiral, to annoye “the King of Spaine.” And, in January 1603, a further call was made, to fit out two ships and a pinnace, “for the “suppressinge of the Dunkirkers.”

**1605.**  
NewChar-  
ter of  
James I.

At the beginning of the reign of James I., the Grocers’ Company obtained from that sovereign a new charter. A notice in the journals of the month of August 1605, declares, “that the new charter was read to the Company, “in English, by the clerk, when the whole of them with “one voyce and free consente gave greate approbation “and allowance thereof; and returned Mr. Tipper, a “member of the court, thankes of his great paines and “talent in the business:” a gratuity was ordered to Mr. Tipper’s clerks, and a remuneration of £8. 8. to Joyce Knight, “paynter stayner, for lymninge, guildynge, and “flourishinge the Companie’s charter, with the King’s and “Prince’s armes, and with divers of the Assistants their “armes,” besides an allowance of 8s. for two skins of vellum.

On the 8th July, 1606, the Company were called upon by the Lord Mayor to pay £87 . 8. “parcel of £1000, for

“ the makeinge of a pageant and raylinge\* of the streetes,  
 “ as of other necessaryes to be performed by the Cittie at  
 “ the royal passages of the King’s majestic and the King  
 “ of Denmarke, with their traynes, throughe this Cittie,  
 “ the last of this month.”

1606.  
 Pageant  
 for the  
 King of  
 Denmark.

The King of Denmark here alluded to, was brother-in-law to the King; and the pageant made by the City, on the occasion of his entry into London, is described in a scarce tract in the Guildhall library, entitled, “ The most royall and honourable entertainment of the famous and renowned King Christiern the Fourth, King of Denmarke, who, with a fleete of gallant shippes, arrived on Thursday the 16 day of July, 1606, in Tylbery-hope, near Gravesend; with a relation of his meeting, by our royall King, the Prince and nobles of our realme: the pleasures sundry times shewed for his gracious welcome, and most famous and admirable entertainment at Theobald’s; with the royal passage, on Thursday the 31st of July, through the City of London, and honourable shewes there presented them, and manner of their passing. By H. R., 1606.”

The royal party having landed at the Tower from Greenwich, “ they made no long staye, but as suddenlie as the traine could be marshalled, according to their auncient manner, they set forwardes, where the Kinges were entertained by that worthie magistrate, Sir Leonard Hollyday, Lord Mayor of the honourable Cittie of London, who delivered the sword unto his highnesse, who graciously received it, and then proceeded in the following order, namelie:—

“ The Marshalls of the Cittie first, who had with greate care and deserved commendations for their travailes, from the morning very early, rid up and downe the Cittie, carefully overseeing the multitudes of people which came to be partakers of these royal sightes, who,

\* The railing here alluded to, was placed in front of the stands occupied by the City Companies on each side of the streets through which public processions passed.

“ by the straight commandment received from the Lord  
“ Maior and Aldermen for the peoples’ safeties, and that no  
“ harme might befall any of the Companies; so highly, and  
“ with such greate regard did they apply themselves, that  
“ thereby much harme was prevented.” In describing the  
first part of the procession, the writer proceeds to point  
out, with evident marks of wonder, “ the Kinge of Den-  
“ marke’s drummer ridinge upon a horse, with two drums,  
“ one of each side the horse’s necke, whereon he strooke  
“ two little mallets of wood, a thinge verie admirable to  
“ the common sorte, and much admired.” Then came the  
Lord High Admiral, who carried the sword, “ and betweene  
“ two other two, the Lord Mayre of London, who carryed  
“ the mace;” then the “ most gracious Prince Henrie, and  
“ after, those two famous honours of estate and majestie,  
“ the two Kinges, our dreade Sovereign and his beloved  
“ brother, Christierne the Fourth, King of Denmarke.”  
They marched on in this order till they came to Cheapside,  
“ where stood the Companies of London in their liverie  
“ gownes and hoodes; for whom there were places *double*  
“ *rayled*, which were hanged with blew broad cloth, and  
“ the rayles garnished with auncyents very richly guylt with  
“ the King’s arms of England, and the auncyents of silk  
“ of each Hall, with streamers and pendants of their armes  
“ and several fellowshippes, the better to be knownen,  
“ while the windowes and pent houses were richly decked  
“ with arrace and other costly hanginges.” Of the pageants,  
that next the Grocers’ Hall is described as being “ made  
“ with greene boughs, a very artificiall arboure, which was  
“ garnyshed with all sortes of delightfull fruites, and, in  
“ this arbour was placed most sweete musicke, which  
“ greatlie delighted the hearers, and, no doubt, pleased his  
“ Majestie.

“ At Temple barre, his Majestie and his brother Kinge,  
“ giving many thankes to the Lord Mayor and cityzens,  
“ for their great charge and paynes, delivered the sword  
“ to the Lord Mayor, and rode on their way to Somerset  
“ House; the Mayor returning, was mette by the Sheriffes

" & Aldermen of the Cittie, who accompanied him to  
" his house."\*

The first mention of the events which led to the establishment of what was termed the City of London's colony, or "plantation in the north of Ireland," occurs in the records in July 1609; and as the Grocer's Company became, in consequence of those events, proprietors of an estate in the province of Ulster, a full account of the circumstances connected with it cannot fail to prove interesting; but as the detail is rather long, and if inserted here would impede the progress of my narrative, I have preferred drawing up a distinct notice of the Company's Irish estate, which will be found in the Appendix, and to which I refer the reader. It is a curious document, and will, I believe, afford a correct idea of that interesting and valuable portion of the Company's possessions.

1609.  
The Com-  
pany's  
Irish  
estate.

Queen Elizabeth had, on more than one occasion, during her reign, ordered the Lord Mayor to issue exhortations to the citizens, "to avoid the great excesse of apparel now " of late used and crept in among them, willing and commanding them, at the same time, circumspectly to look " to the daunger of the estatutes thereof, made both in " the raignes of King Henry VIII. & of Phillip & Marie." James I., who loved minutiae, and who, evidently, took an interest in that which, to use his own peculiar phraseology,

1611.  
Apparel.

\* There are frequent allusions in the records to the pageants furnished and set forth by this Company. Some on the occasion of royal visits to the City; others when the Lord Mayor for the year happened to be a member of the Company. These performances, which were generally of a dramatic cast, consisted of personifications of Industry, Commerce, the City of London, the Thames, and beings of the like kind, intermixed with gods and goddesses, and seem to have afforded great delight to the rude and uncultivated understandings of those for whose entertainment they were intended. To illustrate the mode in which these matters were conducted by the Grocers' Company, I have extracted from the records the complete account of the expenses of the *Triumphs*, as they were termed, for one year. The Reader will find it in the Appendix. The last pageant furnished by the City was in 1707; and the office of City poet, whose duty it was, to draw up the programmes, and to write the necessary verses, expired with Elkanah Settle, the last of the civic laureates.

may be termed the *res vestiaria* of his loyal citizens, carried the matter farther ; he entered into elaborate details of what apprentices and maid servants might be permitted to wear, and enumerated the articles of clothing and ornament which they were to avoid. A precept to this effect, which, by his order, was issued by the Lord Mayor to the Wardens of the Company, in 1611, is so remarkable, and gives so curious a description of the costume of the time, that I cannot refrain from inserting it.

In the precept complaint is made of “ the abuse grow-  
“ ing by excesse and straunge fashions of apparell, used  
“ by manye apprentices, and by the inordynate prydē of  
“ mayde servaunts and women servauntes in their excesse  
“ of apparell and follye in varietie of newe fashions ; and  
“ to admonish them to have a due and speciaill care to see  
“ a spedye reformacōn had in everye one of their ser-  
“ vaunts.” The Company were called together and the pre-  
cept read, with “ sundrye godly and charitable exhortacōns  
“ made by Mr. Warden Burrell to each, to see reformacōn  
“ made in his owne familie according to the meaninge of  
“ the same.” The act of Common Council, subsequently  
promulgated, orders apprentices to wear, during their per-  
iod of servitude, such apparel only as should be provided  
by their masters, or, if provided by the friends, such only  
as should be subject to the masters’ appointment “ for the  
“ stuffe, fashion, and goodnesse” therein declared ; namely,  
none to wear any hat lined, faced, or stuffed with velvet,  
silk, or taffeta, but only the breadth of three inches in the  
head ; nor any hat, other than such as the hat and band,  
with the trimming, as shall not exceed in all the value of  
five shillings. Not to wear in his band either lawn or cam-  
brick, but holland or other linen not exceeding five shillings  
the ell, nor wear any lace, edge, or other work about the  
same band, but only a plain hem and one stitch : and if any  
apprentice shall wear any ruff band, the same not to exceed  
three inches in length before it be gathered and set into the  
stock, and not to be more than two inches in depth before  
the setting in of the same into the stock. No apprentice

to wear " any piccadilly or other support, in, with, or about  
 " the collar of his doublett ; nor to weare about his collar,  
 " eyther poynt, wellbone, or plaits, but the collar to be  
 " made close and comely : nor wear any breeches or  
 " doublett of any kind of silke, or stuff mingled with  
 " silk, but only of cloth, kersey, fustian, sack-cloth, can-  
 " vasse, English leather or English stuff, which stuff shall  
 " not exceede 2s. 6d. a yard ; not to wear in his cloak,  
 " coat, jerkin, doublett, or breeches, any broade clothe  
 " above 10s. a yard, nor any kersy exceeding 5s. ; nor  
 " wear in the garnishing, lining, facing, setting forth, or  
 " drawing out of his apparell either velvet or any silk or  
 " stuff, save only silk buttons and silk in the button holes  
 " to his coat or jerkin ; nor any gloves above 12d. a pair,  
 " and these without any fringe or garnishing of gold or  
 " silver lace, velvet lace, or silk lace, or ribbon. None  
 " to wear any girdle, point, garters, shoestrings of any  
 " kind of silk or ribbon, nor any rose or such like toys  
 " at all, either on his garters or on his shoes, nor any  
 " silk, worsted, or kersey stockiugs, but stockings only  
 " of woollen yarn or kersey ; nor Spanish shoes, nor shoes  
 " made with Polonia heels, nor of any other leather than  
 " neats leather or calves leather ; nor wear his hair with any  
 " tuft or lock, but cut short in decent and comely manner."

Breach of these regulations was to subject the apprentice to imprisonment in " Little Ease" \* for eighteen hours. The like confinement was to be imposed on any apprentice who should be found in any " dauncing schole or of fence, or  
 " learn or use dancing or masking, or should use dicing or  
 " any other play, or haunt any tennis court, common  
 " bowling-alley, cock fighting or brothel houses ; or which  
 " should, without his master's knowledge, have any chest,  
 " press, trunk, desk, or other place, to lay up or keep any  
 " apparel or goods only in his master's house, or with his

\* *Little Ease* was a place of confinement for unruly apprentices ; it was situated in the Guildhall, and is said to have derived its name from the circumstance of the culprit shut up in it not being able to sit, stand, or lie down.

“ master’s licence ; or should keep any horse, gelding, or  
“ mare, dog, or bitch, or fighting cock.”

With regard to the maid-servants and women-servants, it was ordained,

“ That none should wear on her head any lawn, cam-  
“ brick, tiffany, velvet lawn, or white silk wires, either in  
“ any kerchief, koyfe, crest cloth, or shaddow, nor any  
“ linnen cloth therein, saving such linen cloth only, as  
“ should not exceed 5s. the ell, nor any lace or edging  
“ upon the same or any part thereof: nor any band,  
“ neckerchief, gorget, or stomacher, but only plain ; nor  
“ any ruff exceeding 4 yards in length before the gathering  
“ or setting in thereof, nor 3 inches in depth within the  
“ setting in thereof ; nor any lawne, velvet, tiffany, cob-  
“ weblawne, nor white silk cipres at all, other than about  
“ their neck or otherwise ; nor any linnen cloth but of the  
“ price of 5s. the ell, or lace or edging whatsoever, but  
“ plain hem and one stitch ; nor any stomacher wrought  
“ with any gold, silver, or silk, or with any kind of stuff  
“ made of or mixed with silk ; nor wear any gowne, kirtle,  
“ waistcoat, or petticoat, old or new, of any kind of silk  
“ stuff, or stuffs mingled with silk, nor other stuff than of  
“ 2s. 6d. a yard, nor any kersey more than 3s. a yard, or  
“ broad cloth of 10s. the yard. Nor wear any silk lace or  
“ guard upon her gown, kirtle, waistcoat, or petticoat, or  
“ any other garments, safe only a cape of velvet ; nor any  
“ fardingal at all, either little or great, nor any body or  
“ sleeves of wire, whalebone, or with any other stiffing, sav-  
“ ing canvass or buckram only :” the restrictions as to shoes,  
stockings, &c. are the same as those of the apprentices.

1616.  
Funerals of  
members’  
wives.

Among the earliest ordinances for the governance of the Company, was one, cited at page 49, which rendered it imperative on the brethren to attend at the funerals of any deceased members of the Fraternity. In 1616 a wish was expressed by the Livery that the same respect should be shown to the remains of their wives, and, accordingly, an order of the Court, dated the 11th September of that year, declares, “ That severall brothers of the clotheinge

" being desyrous, on their wyves' deceasse, to invite the  
 " ryght worshippfull M<sup>rs</sup>. Wardens and such brothers of  
 " the said Liverie as maye be willing to accompanie the  
 " corpses of their said wyves, soe deceassing, to their  
 " funerall (as in other like Companies of the Citty hath  
 " been and is accustomed), and this Court, holding it a  
 " commendable work of charitie soe to doe;" it was or-  
 dered that whatever brother should, on such occasions,  
 give £6 . 8 . 4 . " or any other benefytt or guyft to the  
 " value thereof, such brother should have his wyve's fune-  
 " rall attended to the church by the Wardens and such of  
 " the Liverie as maye be willing upon somons soe to doe."  
 It may not be irrelevant to state that, on these occasions,  
 the corpse of the deceased was previously removed to  
 Grocer's Hall, and that the train proceeded, with great  
 ceremony, from thence to the church. When the deceased  
 was a person of consideration, the proceedings were di-  
 rected by the Heralds of the College of Arms, who, after-  
 wards, made a formal registry of the ceremony, which was  
 termed a " Funeral certificate." Through the kindness of  
 C. G. Young, Esq. York Herald, I have obtained a copy  
 of one of these, which I here insert as a matter of curiosity.

" Mr. William Penyfather, Esquier, citizen and marchant  
 " of London, who had fyned for Shrieff and Alderman of  
 " the said Citty, departed this mortal life on the first day of  
 " May 1638, at his dwelling house in the parish of Saint  
 " Martyns Orgars, and his body was worshipfully conveyed  
 " from *Grocers' Hall*, with all funeral rites, to the said  
 " parish church, and there interred in a vault in the chaun-  
 " cel, on Thursday the xxiiii<sup>th</sup> of the same month; he mar-  
 " ried Margaret, the daur of — Reade, the relict of  
 " William Atmore, of London, by whom he left no yssue.  
 " This certificate was taken by me Thomas Thompson,  
 " *Lancaster Herauld*, and is certified to be true by the  
 " subscription of Thomas Large and Samuel Avary, exe-  
 " cutors of the defunct. The officers of arms that di-  
 " rected the sayd funerall were Sir William Le Neve,  
 " Knight, *Clarencieux*, who appointed Robert Browne,

Funeral  
certificate.

“ *Rouge Croix*, to wait in his stead. George Manwairing,  
 “ *Richmond Herauld*, and Thomas Thompson, Esquire,  
 “ *Lancaster Herauld*.

“ THOMAS LARGE,  
 “ SAMUEL AVARY.”

1616.  
 Clerkship  
 of the  
 Company.

The office of Clerk to the Company, which was instituted about the year 1460, and to which the original salary attached was £6. 13. 4. per annum, had become, in 1616, a desirable appointment; at least I conjecture so from the circumstance of the reversion of it being sought for by numerous suitors. This circumstance gave umbrage to the Court, “ on the supposition made, that the clerke nowe “ being subject to much sickness, intendeth to leave the “ same place to some others whom, for meere affection or “ private proffyt to himself, he should procure to become “ suitors for the same place in reversion, to this Court, “ and thereby deprive this Court of their future free elec- “ tion of a fytt man, when the place shall become voyde.” The clerk, Mr. John Grove, denied, in respectful terms, that he had any intention of interfering with the free choice of the Company; but as he died in the month of December in that year, the Court proceeded to elect Mr. John Bunbury, “ one of the Attorneys of his Majestie’s Courte of “ Common Pleas at Westminster,” who, having given security for £500, was accordingly sworn into the office. This is the first instance on record of a lawyer being chosen to fill that situation, which he was to hold “ for soe long “ a tyme as he shall well and duly behave himself in the “ execution thereof.”

1616.  
 Ancient  
 privilege of  
 inspection  
 and corre-  
 ction of  
 abuses.

I ought, perhaps, to have stated at an earlier period, that by their charters, the corporation of “ the Wardens “ and Commonalty of the mystery of Grocers,” included and had a control over, all druggists, confectioners, tobacconists, and tobacco cutters, “ as having been branched out “ of and bred by Grocers,” says Ravenhill, “ there being “ then no Company of them, or any of them.” According to the privileges and ancient usages of this Company, the Wardens had the power of entering the warehouses and

shops of all persons who followed any of the above-mentioned trades, for the purpose of inspecting the articles they dealt in, with a view to prevent adulteration, and likewise of assaying their weights. There are frequent entries in the records to shew that they regularly discharged this part of their duty. In the Appendix will be found one instance of a fine of 6s. 8d. levied in 1456, on John Ayshfelde, "for makynge of untrewe powder gynger, cynamon, " and saunders." It appears that the spurious material was always seized; as, in 1561, the books shew that "bags " and remnantes of certeyne evil and naynte pepper" were ordered to be conveyed over sea to be sold, but the dust of the "evil pepper syrnamed gynger" was to be burned. Thus it appears that the Court, although they had "a reve- " rend care" of the health of their fellow citizens, did not scruple, on occasion, to poison their continental neighbours.

In 1562, the Court made an order that "grocerie wares " should not be sold in the streetes, figges onlie excepted;" and that the Apothecaries, freemen of the Company, should not use or exercise any drugs, simple or compound, "or "any other kynde or sortes of Poticarie wares but such "as shall be pure and perfyt good." In 1571, King, a brother of the Company, "and certein others, makers of "comfytes, charged before the Wardeyns for their misde- "meanours in mingling starche with the suger, and such "other thinges as be not tolerated nor suffrid. And the said "Rauf King having now in his place a goode quantitie of "comfytes, made with corse stuffe, and mingled as aforesaid "with starche and such like," it was ordered, that the comfits should be put into a tub of water, and so consumed and poured out; "and that everie of the comfyt makers "shall be made to enter into bondes in £20, that they "shall not hereafter make any biskitts but with clere suger "onlie, nor make any comfytts that shall be wrought "upon seeds or any other thinges, but with clere suger "onlie."

The Wardens and Court of Assistants, by the Charters above mentioned, possessed the power of committing to

prison any individuals guilty of vending damaged or adulterated goods, which came within their jurisdiction ; and, accordingly, on the 7th February 1616, we find that, Michael Eason, having been convicted before the Court, he being an Apothecary, and brother of the Company, of selling “ divers sortes of defective Apothecarie wares, “ which, on triall, were found to be defective, corrupt, “ and unwholesome for man’s body ;” and it being further proved, “ that he had sould and uttered the like wares to “ Mr. Lownes, the Prince his Highness’s Apothecarie, “ and others ; and he alsoe being found very unfitt in “ making of compositions and confectiones, and insufficient “ and unskillfull to deale therein, he is, by the Court, in “ consideration of the great damage and danger which “ might happen to the Companie by permitting such enor-“ mities, committed to the Poultre Compter.” There are repeated instances of the Company proceeding to these extremities, not only in cases similar to those quoted, but also in those of the non-payment of Livery and other fines. In October 1655, one Bellors was committed to Newgate, for refusing, after being summoned before the Lord Mayor, to pay his livery fine of £30.

1622.  
King  
James's  
interfe-  
rence in  
the elec-  
tion of a  
cook.

I have now to advert to a circumstance which, in itself, is of little importance, but which affords a striking example of the undue interference of the Crown even in the private affairs of corporate bodies, in the reign of James I. It is probable, that the King, in the main a kind and good-natured man, was in some degree compelled to act as he did, in order to provide for his numerous courtiers and their importunate dependants.\* This evil increased to an oppressive degree in the following reign, and contributed greatly to augment the feeling of discon-

\* “ James, who, through his whole reign, was more guided by tem-  
per and inclination than by the rules of political prudence, had brought  
“ with him great numbers of his Scottish courtiers, whose impatience  
“ and importunity were apt, in many particulars, to impose on the easy  
“ nature of their master, and extort favours, of which it is natural to  
“ imagine, his English subjects would loudly complain.”—*Hume’s History of England*, vol. vi.

tent, on the part of the people against the government, which finally destroyed the unhappy Charles: it will be seen, in the sequel, that the Grocers' Company were, on several occasions, exposed to the effects of it. I have already cited the instance of the King demanding a supply of corn, for his household use, from the Company's store; and, in 1622, we find him interfering in the election of their servants, in a mode so unjustifiable as to elicit great discontent from the members of the Court. By the records it appears, that the office of cook to the Company became vacant in December of the year above mentioned; and as the appointment was deemed to be of some value, there were no less than six suitors for it, all well recommended.\* The interest of the whole Court appearing to be vested in two of the above individuals, it was agreed, on a shew of hands, that the other four candidates should be withdrawn, as having no chance whatever. As part of the curiosity attached to the proceedings, consists in the quaint language in which they are narrated, I shall extract the greater part of them *verbatim* from the journals.

" This day sundry petitioners and suretys sued to this  
 " Court for to bee cooke of this Company, being nowe  
 " voyd by the death of Arthur Hollingworth, late cooke  
 " thereof; namely, William Norringroet, nowe cooke to  
 " the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and by his  
 " Lordshipp commended to this Court to be both very  
 " sufficient in his profession, and of an honest & civil

\* The emoluments and perquisites of the office of cook were considered to be so unreasonable, that in July 1658 the Court fixed a tariff of the fees to be allowed; the note of them is as follows, viz.

For the commemoration and election dinners, viz. for dress-	
sing each dinner, without any other allowance .....	£3 0 0
For aprons and dresser cloths for each dinner .....	1 0 0
For the quarter dinner; for dressing each dinner, without	
any other allowance .....	1 16 8
For dressing the accompt dinner, both days .....	1 6 8
For dressing every dinner for the Assistants .....	0 6 8
For dressing every Stewards' dinner.....	1 6 8

And also, that the cook shall have the benefit of all the dripping and venison bones and gubletts, without any other fees of the meat.

“ behaviour in his course of life, requestinge the whole  
“ Court, for his sake, to take consideration of his suyte.

“ The second, Francis Acton, nowe cooke to the right  
“ worshippfull Sir Humphrey Handford, Kt. one of the  
“ Sheriffes of this Cittye, in whose behalfe the right  
“ honourable Sir George Calvert, principal Secretarie to  
“ the King’s most excellent Ma<sup>tie</sup>, did write a letter by  
“ appointment and commande from his M<sup>tie</sup> as followeth,  
“ To my very lovinge frends the Master, Wardens,  
“ and Assistants of the Company of Grocers of the Cittye  
“ of London.

“ After my very heartye comendacōns ; I have received  
“ a comāndment from his Ma<sup>tie</sup> to recomānd unto you  
“ earnestly and effectually, in his name, one Francis Acton  
“ to be the cooke of yo<sup>r</sup> Company, a very honest man,  
“ singularly skillfull in his profession and soe knowne unto  
“ his Ma<sup>tie</sup> as having served the late Queen Anne of happy  
“ memory for divers yeare, and by that meanes hath beene  
“ oftentymes ymployed in his Ma<sup>ties</sup> owne service ; I cann  
“ assure you that his Ma<sup>tie</sup> will take yt in very gracious  
“ parte the favour that you prefer this man uppon his  
“ recommendacion and will expect from mee an accompt  
“ of the successe, which I wish with all my heart to be such  
“ as may give his Ma<sup>tie</sup> contentment and that he may ac-  
“ knowledge yt unto you with his Princelye thanks, as I  
“ doubt not but he will, and soe I bidd you heartilye ffare-  
“ well ;

your verie lovinge friend,

GEORGE CALVERT.

“ Ffrom my house in St. Martyn’s Lane.

“ 12 December, 1622.”

After the above letter and the testimonials of Norringroet had been read, the two candidates were “ put in election “ for the sayde place, whereupon it was agreed by the “ Court to trie the sayde election by the ballotynge box ; “ which being tryed, the sayde Francis Acton had 19 “ balls and the sayde William Norringroet 14 in there “ boxes, 2 balls were found to be in the utter box, and

" one lost in puttinge into the box, by reason that some of  
" the assistants, *as it was affyrmēd*, being not acquainted  
" with the sayd kind of election, were mistaken in puttinge  
" there balls into the boxe, and thereupon a tryal was  
" made the second tyme by the ballottynge box & then  
" Norringroet had in his boxe 19 balls and Acton 18,  
" which being examined by the Court howe the same  
" came to passe, seeing that there were but 35 personnes  
" in Court, and thereupon it was found that the Lord  
" Mayor and Mr. Warden Wynch had putt into the boxe,  
" each of them, two balls which was by the Court adjudged  
" not fittinge nor usuall and therefore this tryal of no force,  
" for that there can be in a Court but one castinge voyce  
" or ball and that in case of a difference when the persons  
" in choice are even, accordinge to an order here made  
" the 25th day of Januarie, A.D. 1607, and thereupon  
" Mr. Warden Wynch yeelded that the Lord Mayor  
" should have the castinge voyce or ball; and then yt  
" pleased the right worshippfull Sir Thomas Middleton, to  
" avoyde all mistakinges in the sayd choice, to propound  
" to the Court that there might be a tryall by scrutinie,  
" that is, the suytors names to be written and everie As-  
" sistant to give his score to him that he would have  
" cooke, which was well approved by the Court and done  
" accordinglie and upon the sayd tryall, the sayd Francis  
" Acton had 18 persons and William Norringroet 17,  
" which togeather with my Lord Mayor's castinge stroke  
" made up 18, whereupon the Court, being all this tyme  
" unresolved of the sayd election, deferred the same till  
" another court." How a "castinge stroke" was neces-  
sary where the numbers were not equal, is not explained,  
but, in order to shew the issue of this juggling transaction,  
it is necessary to state, that, a few days after the attempted  
election, Sir George Calvert sent for the Master and  
Wardens "to come to speake with him." They accord-  
ingly went up and Sir George demanded of them why  
they had not returned an answer to the King's letter, par-  
ticularly, as the choice, as he had been informed, had

fallen upon the King's candidate ? They replied that the election was doubtful ; but he, taking them roundly to task and not “ beinge sattisfied with the sayde answer, requyred “ a further and speedie answere concerning the King's “ requeste.” Upon which a Court of Assistants was immediately summoned, and, after grave and solemn deliberation, it was agreed that Francis Acton was, in truth, the successful candidate, and he was, accordingly, elected cook to the Company !

This transaction does not redound to the credit of any of the parties concerned and scarcely merits, from its insignificance, the space which has been devoted to it, nor should I have adverted to it at all but in illustration of the temper of those times, in which the liberty of the subject was regarded rather unceremoniously.

**1626.**  
Loan to  
Charles I.

Hume states that at the end of the year 1626, “ an act of council was passed, importing, that as “ the urgency of affairs admitted not the way of par-“ liament, the most speedy, equal, and convenient method “ of supply was by a general loan from the subject “ according as every man was assessed in the rolls of the “ last subsidy. That precise sum was required which “ each would have paid, had the vote of four subsidies “ passed into a law : but care was taken to inform the “ people that the sums exacted were not to be called “ subsidies but *loans*.\*\* The above was one of those ill-judged stretches of prerogative which Charles I. so frequently committed, and which, in the end, fanned the embers of civil war into a flame. In consequence of the above act of council, the City of London was ordered to raise one hundred and twenty thousand pounds for the King's service ; it was levied upon the Companies on the same principles as the corn rate, and the proportion of the Grocers was £6000, for which, however, security was demanded and given ; the Mayor's precept states that the money was to be paid “ after his Majestie and the Lords

\* History of England, vol. vi.

" and others of his Highness most honourable privie counsell shall signe the articles of agreement betweene his Highness and the Citty touchinge the assurance of his Majestie's lands to be absolutely conveyed in fee farme to this Cittie after the rate of xxviii years purchass, for and in satisfaction as well of the sayd cxx thousand pounds as of the cittie's former debt." Half the amount was to be paid in ten days from the 20th December 1627, and the remainder in six months. The security given for this loan proved to be available, as it appears by an entry, dated the 10th March, 1630, that the Wardens " made reporte unto this Court that they have received out of the Chamber of London" £6000, and £751 for interest, less a sum of £430 due by the Company to the City, for what was termed " pageant money." Whether the funds were produced by the sale of the King's lands does not appear, as there is no other mention of the fact than that the money came from the chamber of London. As the times became more stormy and as the public troubles increased, other loans were raised or rather enforced, but no solid securities being given, the Grocers' Company suffered inconvenience and distress, from the effects of which they did not recover for more than a century, as will be seen in the sequel.

If James I. acted unjustifiably in interfering, as it has been already shewn he did, in the election of the Company's servants, his son Charles went further, by attempting to influence the disposal of their property and church patronage. An attendant of the King's, Sir Peter Saltonstall by name, held an unexpired lease of certain premises in Mincing-lane, belonging to the Company, and being anxious to secure an extension of his term, *at the same rent*, he induced his Majesty to apply to the Court of Assistants in his favour. Accordingly, on the 27th of June 1628, the Wardens received the following letter from the King:—

1628.  
Unconsti-  
tutional  
interfe-  
rence of  
the King  
in the  
Compa-  
ny's  
affairs.

“ To our trustie and well-beloved the Aldermen  
“ and Wardens of the Companie and misterie of  
“ Grocerie in our Citty of London, and to every  
“ of them.

“ CHARLES R.

“ Trustie and well-beloved; Whereas we are informed,  
“ that your predecessors the Wardens of the misterie of  
“ Grocerie, did, about threescore yeares since, graunt  
“ unto Ferdinando Poyntz, gent<sup>n</sup>. a certaine messuage  
“ with some other small tenements lyinge in Minsinge Lane,  
“ London, for the tearme of 70 yeares, att the rent of  
“ £20 per annum, in buildinge whereof, and the grounds  
“ therein leased, the sayd Poyntz bestowed very great  
“ somes of money, and then assigned over his tearme in  
“ the premises (the buildinge not fullie finished) for a  
“ valluable consideration unto Sir Richard Saltonstall,  
“ knight, deceased, whoe likewise in his life tyme was  
“ att great charge in the finishinge thereof, and since the  
“ same is come to Sir Peter Saltonstall, kt. our servaunte,  
“ his sonne, whoe hath bene att greate charge, and must  
“ be att a greate deale more in the repare of itt, and, as  
“ wee are informed, is a suitor unto you to inlarge the  
“ remainder of his tearme in the premises to 31 yeares,  
“ under the same rente as is nowe reserved; which request  
“ of his, wee, conceivinge to be verie reasonable, have  
“ thought good, in our especiall grace and favour to our  
“ sayde servaunte, to recommend him to you, that his tearme  
“ unexpired may be enlarged under the same rente as  
“ aforesayd, which favour done unto him, wee shall take  
“ notice of, and retayne in our princely remembrance, to  
“ recompense as occasion shall serve. Given under our  
“ signett, att our Pallace of Westminster, the five and  
“ twentyth day of June, in the fourth yeare of our reigne.”

On the letter being read, the Court “ entering into a  
“ deliberate consideration thereof, which may give all  
“ dutyfull and obedient respect and performaunce to his  
“ Ma<sup>tie's</sup> request, as far as the orders established in this

" Companie for the renewal of leases will permit," it was agreed that the letter should be registered, and when the old lease was within two years of its expiration, they would have especial regard to his Majesty's request, and to Sir Peter's suit. This was done, and an addition to the term granted to him on the 12th March, 1630, on payment of a small fine.

Another instance of oppressive interference on the part of the Crown took place in 1635. On the 17th February the Wardens received the following communication from his Majesty :

1635.  
Two letters from  
King Charles I.

" To our trustie and well-beloved the Mr. Wardens  
" and Assistants of the Companie of Grocers in  
" London.

" CHARLES R.

" Trustie and well-beloved, wee greete you well ; Wee  
" have received verie good testimonie of the learning, and  
" other abilities, of Aaron Wilson, now incumbent of  
" Saint Stephen's, in Walbrooke, and therefore have  
" thought fitt for his better incouragement to conferr upon  
" him the vicaridge of Plymouth in the countie of Devon ;  
" and because the said rectorie of St. Stephen's will  
" thereby become voide, wee doe therefore expect, that  
" when it shall bee in your disposall, you forbeare to present  
" any incumbent thereunto untill you know our further  
" pleasure, wee holding it reasonable, that wee having  
" preferred your clerke, you should respect us soe farre as  
" to leave the naming of the successor to us. Given under  
" our signett, att our Palace of Westminster, the 14th  
" daie of Februarie, in the tenth yeare of our reigne."

On the above being read to the Court, it was determined that there should be no presentation until the rectory should become void. On the 10th of April, a second letter was received from the King, couched in the following terms :—

“ To our trustie and well-beloved the Mr. Wardens  
“ and Assistants of the Companie of Grocers, of  
“ London.

“ CHARLES R.

“ Trustie and well-beloved, wee greete you well;  
“ Whereas wee were lately pleased to direct a letter  
“ unto you, requiring you to forbear to present any clerke  
“ to the rectorie of St. Stephen’s, in Walbrooke, voide by  
“ the preferment of Aaron Wilson, late incumbent there,  
“ till wee should nominate one to you for that purpose,  
“ your conformitie whereto is verie acceptable to us; wee,  
“ taking speciall care that that place should bee supplied by  
“ a person of worth and abilities, are pleased, by these our  
“ letters, to nominate and recommend unto you Thomas  
“ Howell, Dr. in divinitie and one of our chaplaines in  
“ ordinarie, requiring you forthwith to present him to the  
“ said rectorie of St. Stephen’s, in Walbrooke, to be by  
“ him enjoyed, with all rights and profitts thereunto be-  
“ longing; and these our letters shall be your sufficient  
“ warrant and discharge in this behalfe. Given under our  
“ signett, at our Palace of Westminster, the third day of  
“ Aprill, in the eleventh yeare of our reigne.”

On receipt of the above letter, the Court sent for Dr. Howell, and inquired whether, if he were presented to the living according to the King’s recommendation, he would reside upon it? He replied, that having another living of greater value, near Guildford, which he could not give up, he could only engage to reside in London during the winter, but that he would provide an able and learned man in his absence. In the meanwhile, the parishioners of Saint Stephen’s, as was their custom when the rectory was vacant, memorialised the Court on the subject of their minister, transmitting to them the names of three individuals, one of whom might be selected to fill the vacancy. One of these, a Mr. Saxby, and Dr. Howell, were put in nomination, according to old custom; and the shew of hands being in favour of Mr. Saxby, he was declared duly

elected rector of Saint Stephen's, and his presentation accordingly sealed in Court.\*

On the 30th April " the Court was informed, that the  
" King's Majestie is much displeased therewith, for that  
" Dr. Howell, his Ma<sup>tie</sup>'s chaplaine, was not elected and  
" presented to the rectorie of Saint Stephen's, according

\* I have already had occasion to allude to the Company as proprietors of the rectory of St. Stephen's, Walbrook. They purchased the advowson in 1502, as appears by the following entry in the accounts of that period.

" 1502, Decr. Payde Maister Verney for purchasyng the wovson of  
" Saint Stepheyne's, and a tenemente to the same  
" perteyninge, 325 marks, or.....£216.13.4"

The church was destroyed by the great fire of London in 1666, and when the City was rebuilt, the parish of St. Benet or Benedict Sherehog, Pancras-lane, was united to that of Saint Stephen, Walbrook ; and it was arranged, in consequence, that the right of presentation to the rectory should rest alternately with the Crown and the Grocer's Company. As I have alluded to the fact of the parishioners petitioning the Court on occasions of a vacancy, I insert an application made by them in February 1644.

" To the worshippfull the Aldermen, Wardens, and Assistants of  
" the right worshippfull Company of Grocers.

“ The humble petition of the churchwardens and parishioners of St. Stephen, Walbrook, sheweth, that whereas, the rectorie of the church in St. Stephen’s, in Walbrook, whereof your Company are the undoubted patrons, is now vacant, and the parishioners destitute of a pastor by the resignation of Mr. Thomas Warren, the late incumbent presented thereunto by this Court; and, forasmuch as some unhappy differences have been heretofore amongst us in the said parish, concerning the ministers, and that we are now generally agreed in the affections towards Mr. Humphrey Chambers, a man of approved integrity and learning, and do desire unanimously to enjoy him for our pastor in the said church, to the end the said differences may cease, and amity and quietness may be settled, your petitioners earnestly desire your worships to confer your rectorie upon the aforesaid Mr. Chambers, and to grant him a presentation under the seale of your Company. And your petitioners will acknowledge your favour with respect to them, and pray,

Signed by      " JAMES WHEELER, { Churchwardens,"  
                " JOHN BERX,  
                     And several other parishioners.

The prayer of the petition was granted, and Mr. Chambers was inducted.

" to the direction of his Highness' letter, recited in the last Court, and that Mr. Saxby was, by the same Court, elected and presented to the said rectorie." Mr. Saxby thereupon presented himself, and, after thanking the Court for their preference, informed them that he had heard of the King's displeasure, and not wishing to be the cause of its continuance, freely tendered to the Company the surrender of the living; the Court accepted his resignation, and voted him a benevolence of £20. The rectory being thus declared vacant, Dr. Howell was again sent for, and became a suitor to be admitted " by the Company's right." The Court, after deliberately advising, declared the reverend gentleman elected parson of the vacant rectory, " by the *free* and unanimous consent of the whole Court!" We may fairly say, that the whole of this transaction affords a striking specimen of the unconstitutional exercise of power in the Crown at this period.

1639.  
Ship-  
money.

King Charles made his last attempt to levy that odious impost, the *Ship-money*, in the year 1639.\* On the 18th

\* A few words respecting this unpopular impost may not be unacceptable. King Charles I. in 1634, determined on fitting out a formidable fleet, and commanded the City of London to send to Portsmouth, at their sole charge, their quota of ships, being seven in number, with ordnance, tackle, and stores for twenty-six weeks, for the following year; and similar commands were sent to the other sea-port towns for their proportionate quota, viz.

One ship of 900 tons and 350 men.

One ship of 800 tons and 260 men.

Four ships of 500 tons and 200 men.

One ship of 300 tons and 150 men.

This is properly the first year of that King's ship-money project, which so much contributed to his ruin. In 1635, the King, bent on bringing the Dutch to acknowledge his sea dominion, had, beside other naval armaments, built the greatest ship of war that had ever been seen in England before, and gave it the superb name of the *Royal Sovereign*, of 96 guns and 1740 tons. To pay for this, and to fit out a superior fleet, he sent his special warrant to his Chancellor Coventry, for issuing writs to the sheriffs of the several counties, for assessing and collecting money " for suppressing of pirates, and for the guard of the seas."—Anderson on Commerce, vol. ii.; M'Pherson's Annals of Commerce, vol. ii.; Rymer's Foedera, vol. xix. p. 658.

of April, a letter, addressed to the Wardens, was received from the Lord Mayor, “ for the loane of 100£ from this Company for six months, towards the setting forth and furnishing of a shipp.” The proposal, or rather the order, was as unpalatable to the Court of Assistants as to the rest of the nation, and, consequently, after the subject had been gravely debated and considered, it was resolved, “ that forasmuch as it appears that this Company is much indebted, and hath yearly payd the shipp money, and hath heretofore lent several sums of money to this Citty for the like occasions, which are not yet repayd, and for divers other thinges, it is resolved and agreed by this Court not to lend the said money required by the said letter, unlesse sufficient security be given for repayment thereof att the end of six months.” This arbitrary mode of levying money by virtue of his sole prerogative, and without the consent of Parliament, hastened the crisis which, a few years after, deprived of throne and of life a monarch who, though possessed of many and great virtues, was ever eager to extend the power and influence of the Crown beyond all constitutional bounds.

I have now to record the circumstance of the forced loans to which I before alluded, and which, from the injustice and bad faith committed towards the Grocers' Company, not only involved them in trouble and adversity for a long period, but, at one time, threatened to annihilate them altogether as a public body. In July, 1640, Charles the First wrote a letter to the Lord Mayor, demanding from the City a loan of £200,000; the occasion of it was this: the dangerous situation in which the King found himself at this period, in consequence of disputes with the Parliament, and of the discontent manifested by the Scots, induced him to grant the latter a renewal of the Covenant. The Scottish Parliament, fully aware of the King's position, further insisted on certain privileges necessary, they said, to freedom of debate, and required that the Estates of the Kingdom should be convened, at least, every three years. On receiving these demands, Charles thought he

1640.  
Forced  
loans.

beheld a formed scheme for undermining his royal authority, and instantly prepared to renew the war. The Scots did not wait till the King should invade Scotland, but boldly crossed the Tweed, and, entering England, attacked a detachment of the royal army, at Newburn, in August, 1640, and routed it. The King, surprised and alarmed at this defeat, retreated into Yorkshire, and commenced a negotiation with his insurgent subjects. The Scots for some time took up their quarters in England, but, gratified at length with a donation of three hundred thousand pounds, given under the delicate name of brotherly assistance, they retired homewards, and left the King and Parliament to settle their own affairs.\* It was to make up this sum that the King borrowed of the City the money I have mentioned. By the Lord Mayor's precept the proportion of the Grocers was £4500, "to be by them lent on the security of the Government;" and it was accordingly paid.

1642.  
Loan to  
the Parlia-  
ment.

On the 7th of June 1642, a message from the Lords and Commons was read, thanking the Citizens for former loans, and asking the Companies for a further supply of one hundred thousand pounds, for one year, at eight per cent. per annum, and the interest to be regularly paid into the Chamber of the City. The message was signed "J. Browne, Clerke of Parliament." The motive given for this loan was the relief and preservation of Ireland, where an insurrection had broken out, headed by Roger More and Sir Phelim O'Neale; but there is abundant reason to believe that the money was intended to strengthen the Parliament party against the King.† The Grocers were, on this occasion, assessed in the enormous sum of £9000, and I cannot discover the reason why their proportion was so excessive. The application was considered, and, as may naturally be expected, the Court determined that the

\* Scott. History of Scotland, vol. i. 2d series.

† "They levied money under pretence of the Irish expedition, but reserved it for purposes which concerned them more nearly." Hume, vol. vi.

money should be raised on the Company's seal. Each member was asked to inscribe in a book, opened for the purpose, the sum which he was willing to lend upon the security of the Company; and it was further added, "that if, at the end, any damage ensue, each member of the Company to be rated proportionably to repay the same." The whole amount was levied, and it will be seen, presently, how faith was observed towards the Company. At the expiration of 1643, "several persons, members of this Company, applied to the Court for repayment of their portions of the £9000, advanced for the benefit and the relief of Ireland," whereupon the Wardens were ordered to take up enough to pay them, under the seal of the Company, and "at as easy a rate of interest as they can."

To shew the efforts which the Company made to meet the calls thus made upon them, I will cite an order of the Court of the 8th May 1643, which directs, "that part of this Company's plate, not exceeding the value of one thousand pounds, shall be taken out of the treasurie and sold to the best advantage, for payment of debts, and other necessary charges and affairs of this Company; and it is agreed that when the troubles of this kingdom shall be composed, and this Company's stock returned, the sayd plate shall be repayred and made good, to remain for a memorial in this Hall, according to the gift and intent of the donors."

The troubles of the time, also, caused the following letter to be written, at the same period, by the Lord Mayor:

"To his loving friends, the Master and Wardens of the Company of Grocers.

"After my hearty commendations; according to an act of Common Council, this day holden, for the better forming a safety of this Cittie, in this time of eminent danger, I am to desire you forthwith to send for the arming of auxilliary forces raysed by the Cittie, all the armes of your Company, which, by promised engagement of the Common Council, shall safely, in the same

<sup>1643.</sup>  
Sale of the  
Company's  
plate.

The Com-  
pany's  
arms bor-  
rowed by  
the City.

“ condition, be restored unto you, or others of the same  
 “ goodness, and the full value thereof in money ; and  
 “ Cap<sup>n</sup> Hooker, Sergeant Major Turner, Cap<sup>n</sup> Player,  
 “ Cap<sup>n</sup> Tibborn, Cap<sup>n</sup> Frans. Rowe, Cap<sup>n</sup> Hunt, and  
 “ Cap<sup>n</sup> Thomson, or any two of them, are appoynted by  
 “ Common Council to joyne with such as you shall assigne  
 “ for the valuing of the said armes, to receive the same by  
 “ inventory, for the purpose aforesaid ; and, therefore, in  
 “ regard of the present want and necessity of the said  
 “ armes, I pray you to expedite the business, and cause  
 “ the said armes to be forthwith delivered unto the afore-  
 “ said parties. Thus, not doubting of your conformity  
 “ and readiness herein ; I rest,

“ Your loving friend,

“ ISAACK PENNINGTON, *Mayor.*”

This was received at the time that the civil war was raging in the neighbourhood of Bristol, and when apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the City of London ;\* and so deeply were they impressed on men's minds, that all business and pleasure were suspended, as appears by the following notice of the month of June, 1643 ;

“ This Court, entering into a sad and serious consideration  
 “ of the miserable distractions and calamities of this king-  
 “ dom, threatning the ruin thereof by sickness and famine,  
 “ the certain attendants of an unnatural and bloody warre  
 “ which now reigneth in this kingdom, agree and order  
 “ that the election feast shall be omitted.”

The last drain upon the Company's resources and credit was made towards the end of 1643, by the City itself. On the 22d August of that year, the Lord Mayor addressed a letter to the Wardens, stating, “ that a sum of £50,000 is necessary for the defence of the City in these dangerous

\* The King's party, after the taking of Bristol, “ proposed, and  
 “ seemingly with reason, to march directly to London ; where every  
 “ thing was in confusion ; where the army of the Parliament was baffled,  
 “ weakened, and dismayed ; and where, it was hoped, either by an  
 “ insurrection of the citizens, by victory, or by treaty, a speedy end  
 “ might be put to the civil disorders.”—*Hume, Hist. of England*, vol. vi.

" times, as the parliament forces are approaching," and requiring that £4500, the usual proportion, should be advanced by the Grocers' Company, for which they were to have interest at eight per cent. per annum, and the security of the City-seal and of the Excise-office.\* Any attempt to resist this order, would, under such circumstances, have been useless ; the Wardens were directed to endeavour to levy the sum under the seal of the Company, and to proceed, besides, to the sale " of all this Company's plate (save " the value of £300 for necessary use and service), towards " the sum of £4500, agreed and ordered by this Court to " be lent to the Cittie : it is, moreover, ordered, that a " register of the same shall be kept, and the donors' names; " and that the same shall be replaced, upon the peace of " this country being restored." These repeated sales will give the Reader some idea of the large stock of plate possessed by this Company in ancient times : there are frequent entries in the books, to shew that the members either presented some article of silver to the Company as a memorial, or bequeathed one in their wills. I have preserved a list of some of the more ancient contributions of this description, which will be found in the Appendix.

I have already quoted several instances of the arbitrary interference of the Crown in the affairs of this Company : I shall now mention a fact to demonstrate that those pure reformers of state abuses, the Committee of Safety,†

1645.  
Committee  
of Safety.

\* " The Commons ordered the Lord Mayor to summon a Common Council, to meet the Monday after ; whither a committee repaired, to desire the citizens to advance the money required ; and, as security for the repayment of the same, proposed the duty of excise and Bishop's lands."—*Maitland's History of London*, vol. i.

Besides the loans, there were other calls made on the Company for occasional contributions at this time, £30 per week was demanded by the Parliament towards the payment of their troops ; £6 was levied as the Company's proportion, " for the cost of chains and engines made and employed about the City for the defence thereof ;" and £8 for the relief of maimed and wounded soldiers. All this occurred in 1643.

I ought to state, that £1500, or one-third of the above amount, was repaid " out of the Excise-office," in August, 1644, but another sum of £500 was borrowed by the Parliament on the same security, in 1645.

† See page 14.

went considerably further, in this particular, than either King James or King Charles. This Committee, sitting at Haberdashers' Hall in June 1645, sent for the Wardens and informed them that they had learned the Company were indebted in the sum of five hundred pounds, upon bond, to one Richard Greenough; who, as they alleged, "was found to be a delinquent to the Parliament;" and they, thereupon, required a speedy payment of the same to them. The Wardens were, naturally, startled at this proposition, and desired time to take the advice of the Court; they were told to return, on the Friday following, with a definitive answer. It being ascertained, on discussion, that the demand was peremptory, and, if not consented to, might entail unpleasant consequences on the Company, it was ordered that the Wardens should borrow the sum required upon the Company's seal and retire the bond; which was accordingly done.

1646. The same Committee, in May 1646, summoned the Wardens "to answer the complaint of Bartholomew Edwards for his having been suspended from a porter's place in the weighing-house, on account of his relation to that Committee and his employment in the Parliament service." The Wardens attended the call, and, as they succeeded in proving that the dismissal of this man had arisen entirely from his own misconduct, and from no other cause, the matter was abandoned, but not without a strong recommendation, from the Committee of Safety, that he should be again received into the Company's service on performance of his duty to them, and "that he might not fare the worse for his relation to that Committee." The Court of Assistants accordingly called Edwards before them, and "lovingly admonished him to submit himself to the orders and rules of the Court, which he obstinately and contemptuously refusing, he was excluded, expulsed, and discharged."

1651.  
Colwall-School. The Company, about this time, were compelled to suspend Mr. H. Walwyn, the master of their school at Col-

wall,\* “on account of his imprisonment on a charge of a supposed disaffection to the present government;” but they contrived, in July 1651, to restore him to his place, in consequence of a certificate of good conduct from the minister and inhabitants, which, as it alludes to “a former distemper of his brain,” procured his acquittal and liberation.

A special committee, entitled “the Committee of Corporations,” was appointed by the Parliament in 1652. I cannot precisely ascertain the object of this appointment, but I imagine they were instructed to ascertain the validity of the charters of the different corporate bodies existing; as I find that, on the 1st December 1652, the Company’s charter was called for by them. The Wardens were directed by the Court to proceed with caution, to take the original and a copy with them, and to endeavour to leave the latter, but “not the originall unless peremptorily required.” A proposal for confirming and renewing the charter appears to have followed this interview; for, on the 15th of the same month, it was ordered that “the business concerning the renewing of this Company’s charter to be left entirely to the discretion of the Wardens, to propose such alterations and additions therein, for the further privilege and advantage of this Company, if they shall see cause.” Cromwell, who assumed the protectorate in 1653, is stated to have granted the Company the charter by which they were empowered to make bye-laws for their government in future; and, among other privileges, it conferred on them the power of levying a fine of £30 on every member on his admission.

The Grocers’ Company took a conspicuous part in the rejoicings and festivities with which was celebrated the restoration of Charles II. The Lord Mayor of London,

\* “Humphry Walwyn by his will, 10th December, 1612, gave to the Company and their successors the rent of two houses to be purchased with £600 by his executors; the rents to be applied, *inter alia*, in the maintenance of a free-school at Colwall, in the county of Hereford, the master whereof to be elected and removed by the Company.”—*The Company’s Register of Grants.*

1652.  
Committee  
of Corpora-  
tions.

Crom-  
well’s  
Charter.

1660.  
Restora-  
tion.

Thomas Alleyn, who was a member of the Company, went forth with a splendid train to meet his Majesty on his entrance into London, on the 29th of May, 1660; on which occasion he received the honour of knighthood at the King's hand.\* In the month of June, the City resolving to give a magnificent entertainment to his Majesty and his royal brothers, a sum of three thousand pounds was levied upon the Companies towards defraying the expense, as appears by a precept addressed to the Wardens by the Lord Mayor, demanding £270 as the proportion of this Company “towards the charge of entertaining His Ma<sup>t</sup>e, the “Dukes of York and Gloucester, the two houses of Par-“liament and other persons of quality.” It should be stated that the City required this money only as a loan, giving the security of the City-seal, and paying six per cent. per annum for the use of it.

Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy.

At this period, also, in consequence of a letter from his Majesty, the Lord Mayor wrote to the Master and Wardens, requiring “that no person be permitted to be in “any office or publick employment or councell in the “Company, but such as have or shall take the oaths of “allegiance and supremacy, and bring certificate thereof “to be registered here.” The above being read, “it was “declared by the Lord Mayor, present here in Court, “that the said oaths had been administered and taken in “Common Council, and that the same ought to be taken “by the particular persons then present,” which was accordingly done.

1660.  
Stewards  
at Festi-  
vals.

I have hitherto omitted alluding to the mode in which the Company's festivals were conducted. The custom of selecting two or three individuals from the Livery to act as stewards for providing the dinners and superintending the general arrangements, prevailed from the first establishment of the fraternity to within the last century.†

\* For the details of this ceremony, see the Biographical Sketch of Sir Thomas Alleyn at the end of the volume.

† On great occasions, an additional number of persons were named to assist the stewards, and their duties were pointed out to them, as appears

The office was one of considerable responsibility and some expense, as appears from the fact of a fine being levied on any individual wishing to be excused from serving; the amount was varied from £10 to £30, according to circumstances. The stewards were held responsible for the fitness as well as the sufficiency of the provisions, as is manifest from a complaint inserted in the journals against Messrs. Randal, Parris, and Hummerston, stewards for a dinner given on the 5th of November 1660.\* Complaint was made of the “scantiness of the provision, unsutting wine “and disrespectfull carriage, unbeseeming the due ob-“servance and entertainment of the Company.” A vote of censure was passed by the Court and a fine ordered, the amount of which was to be fixed by the Master and Wardens. A few days afterwards one of the Stewards, Mr. Parris, “appeared in Court, to excuse himself from “any share in the late misearriage,” and, after pleading inexperience in such matters, charged the faultiness of the wine upon the abuse of the vintner, whom Mr. Hummers-ton had employed. The plea was of no avail, and, as the whole of the arrangements appear to have given dissatisfaction, he was mulcted as well as his colleagues.

The citizens resolving to demonstrate their respect and attachment to the King’s person by a magnificent display at the ceremony of the coronation, passed an act of Common Council empowering the Lord Mayor to levy the sum

1661.  
Coronation  
of Charles  
II.

by the following entry in the year 1559. “Twelve of the liverie ap-“pointed to be waiters at the ensuinge Lord Mayor’s feast, whereof three “to welcome guests, two to stand at the dressers and see meat served “in, two to receive in vietnals, two to provide plate for the same feast, “two to see the Company served, and one to see the Hall garnished and “the tables set in order.”

\* The anniversary of the gunpowder-plot was regularly observed for many years and a feast was given at Grocers’ Hall; this is shewn by the books under date of November, 1616. “Ordered that the right wor-“shippfull the Knights, Aldermen, Master, Wardens, Assistants, and “Livery, do assemble on Monday, the 6th November, 1616, at the Hall, “whence they shall repaire to Paulls, there to hear a sermon and give “thanks for the saffe delivery of our deare Soveraign Lord King James “from the Powder Treason.”

of £6000, “ to be furnished by the Companies of London, “ towards the charge of the intended preparations by this “ City against his Majesty’s coronation, signified to be in “ April next.” The proportion of the Grocers was £540, which the Wardens were directed to raise on the security of the Company’s seal. A further sum of £270, for the completion of the same object, was demanded of them in the month of May, but it was refused on the ground of inequality in the proportion of rates charged this Company, when others of greater revenue were assessed at less. Another and more pressing motive for refusal arose from the embarrassed state of the Company’s finances, which, from the serious amount of moneys drained from them by former loans, and by their expenditure in Ireland, gave the Wardens and Court of Assistants great uneasiness. A Committee was appointed to superintend the recovery of the debts due to the Company, and to devise the readiest and most equitable mode of extricating them from their difficulties. The labours of this Committee produced no immediate result; and another for the same object was appointed in 1663, which recommended that the interest on the sums due should continue to be paid until the principal could be redeemed by fines, to be levied on renewal of the leases which would shortly fall in. How this project was defeated will be seen in the sequel.

Sir John  
Frederick.

On the 2d October 1661, Sir John Frederick, Lord Mayor elect, “ moved the Court, through Sir Thomas Alleyn, to be received into this Society upon his translation from the Company of Barber-Chirurgeons, whereof he is a member; and from which, by the rules and customs of the City, he must remove into one of the twelve great Companies, and that his Lordshipp had expressed a friendly affection to this Company upon the occasion of his motion.”\* It was thereupon agreed that

\* Mr. Norton, in his valuable *Commentaries on the History and Franchises of the City of London*, published in 1829, has this passage:—“ even became a common impression, that the former (*i.e.* the Lord Mayor) must belong to one of the twelve great Companies, as they

the said Sir John Frederick should be admitted a member of the Company and of the Court, and that “ some publick show of solemnity and triumph, by pageantry, bachelors, gownsmen, and other ornaments, bee provided at the charge of this Company, to be in readiness against the day of his Lordship.”

Hume, in allusion to what was termed the Corporation Act, says, “ During the violent and jealous government of the Parliament and of the protectors, all magistrates, liable to suspicion, had been expelled the Corporation ; and none had been admitted, who gave not proofs of affection to the ruling powers, or who refused to subscribe the covenant. To leave all authority in such hands seemed dangerous ; and the Parliament, therefore, empowered the King to appoint Commissioners for regulating the Corporations, and expelling such magistrates as either intruded themselves by violence, or professed principles dangerous to the Constitution, civil and ecclesiastical.”\* The Commissioners above alluded to, in the exercise of their functions, made a communication to the Grocers’ Company, which is registered, on the 13th December 1662, in the following terms :—“ This day, the Wardens acquainted the Court that they had received an order (sent unto them) from the Commissioners for regulating of Corporations, which was produced and read ; the tenor whereof is as follows :

1662.  
Corpora-tion Act.

“ *Lunæ vicesimo nono die Novembris 1662*

“ *Anno Caroli Secundi Angl. Regis quarto decimo.*

“ At a meeting of his Majesty’s Commissioners, for & in the city of London, authorised by his Ma<sup>ty</sup>s com-

“ are called ; though it would be difficult to assign any ground for such a dogma.” He adds, in a note, “ there is a precedent, however, of the Lord Mayor being elected from the Coopers’ Company, which is not one of the twelve chief companies, as early as 1742.” It is clear, from the fact I have adduced of Sir John Frederick’s translation into the Company of Grocers from that of the Barber-Chirurgeons, that the custom was in vigour as late as 1661, although I can quote no legal authority for it.

\* History of England, vol. vii.

“ mission, under the great seal of England, for putting  
 “ in execution an act of the present Parliament for the  
 “ well governing and regulating of Corporations ;  
 “ Ordered, that Mr. John Owen, one of the late Wardens  
 “ of the Company of Grocers, Sir Stephen White, Richard  
 “ Waring Esq. Thomas Gower Esq. & Matthew Shep-  
 “ pard Esq. late Assistants of the said Company, being  
 “ lately displaced by the said Company of and from the  
 “ said places and all other places of trust or other em-  
 “ ployments relating to or concerning the government of  
 “ the City of London, shall not henceforth sit in the Court  
 “ of Assistants in any affairs of the same Company from  
 “ time to come, and the Master and Wardens of this  
 “ Company are to see this order accordingly performed.

“ WILLIAM AVERY.”

The nature of the offence committed by the individuals named is not alluded to, but I take it for granted that they were adherents of the Puritan party. On perusing the above, there is no denying that, whatever might have been the offence, politically, it was rather a strong measure that a Committee appointed to examine into and regulate the proceedings of Corporations, should proceed in so arbitrary a manner to deprive members of the Company of their privileges.

1663.  
Allhal-  
lowsStain-  
ing.

On the 29th December 1663, the Company purchased the impropriation of the living of Allhallows Staining, in Mark-lane; it was worth, at that period, £55 *per annum*, and they paid £650 for it.\*

\* “ On the south side of Langbourne Ward, and somewhat within Mart Lane, on the south side thereof, is this parish church of Allhallows, commonly called Stane-Church, for a difference (as may be supposed) from other churches of that name in the city, which of old were built of timber, but since were built of stone, for *Stan*, in the Saxon language, signifieth a stone. It is subject to the Archdeacon, save only as to wills and administrations, which belong to the Commissary. This, of old, was a rectory, and in the patronage of the *De Walthams*, and, after them, of William Hyneland, priest, who presented to it in 1366.”—*Stowe's Surveye*, p. 282.

*Archid. Commissar. Lond.*

*Sion College, MS.*

On the 2d May 1664, the following notice was entered on the books:—“ Divers members of this Company, “ trading in drugs, made request and suit for the countenance and protection of the Court in the freedom of “ their trade, against the invasion of the College of “ Physicians, who, having lately obtained from His “ Majesty a patent, with new and strange power and “ privilege of search, seizure, fine, and imprisonment, “ were attempting the passing of a bill in Parliament for “ the ratification of the same ; which, if effected, will be “ an insupportable inconvenience and prejudice.” They prayed the aid of the Court, which was granted, and a Committee appointed to consult and instruct counsel to defend them before the Committee in Parliament ; it was likewise ordered that the charges incurred by the druggists, for the defence of their right against the physicians, should be defrayed by the Grocers’ Company.

1664.  
Druggists.

“ A sum of two thousand pounds was granted by this “ Company as a loan to his Majesty for his present “ supply ; the money was paid into the Chamber of “ London, and a receipt taken for the same.” This was the Company’s proportion of £200,000, lent by the City of London to his Majesty, to enable him to prosecute the war with the Dutch. Such was the alacrity displayed on this occasion by the City, that the following vote of thanks was passed by Parliament :—“ *Die Veneris, 25 Novem. 1664;* Ordered, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament assembled, that the thanks of both Houses of Parliament be given unto the City of London for their forwardness in assisting his Majesty ; and in particular by furnishing him with several great sums of money towards his preparations for the honour, safety, and trade of this nation.”\*

1664.  
Loan to  
Charles II.

About the beginning of May 1665, one of the most terrible plagues that ever infested this, or perhaps any other country, broke out in the City ; its ravages were so

1665.  
Great  
plague of  
London.

\* Maitland’s History of London, vol. i.

dreadful that, in the course of the year, near 90,000 persons perished. The King's Court and the Parliament removed from London to Oxford. All business and pleasure were naturally suspended, as appears by various notices in the books: on the 10th July it is stated that "the election-  
" feast is to be forbore this year upon serious considera-  
" tion of the sadness of the times and encrease of this sore  
" visitation in the City." Such was the distress of the poorer classes, that, for the relief of their pressing necessities, the Companies were assessed for various sums of money, and were bound, besides, to furnish a certain quantity of coals, of which the proportion of the Grocers was 675 chaldrons.

1665.  
The King presented with a ship of war by the City.

At the commencement of 1665, the citizens of London, to shew their attachment to King Charles, and to assist him in prosecuting the war against the Dutch, resolved to build a man of war at the City's expense, and to present it to his Majesty. This vessel, named *The Loyal London*, was finished and fitted for sea at the commencement of the following year, in sufficient time to take a part in the Duke of Albemarle and Prince Rupert's victory over De Ruyter and Van Tromp.\* The Companies were assessed by act of Common Council, and the amount demanded of the Grocers was £1360. This sum was levied on the members in the following proportions:—the Aldermen £9, the Assistants £7, and the Livery £5 each; and it was ordered by the Court that, "if any refuse the payment of their proportion, their names are to be reported to the Lord Mayor, to be exposed to such censure and course as shall be taken with them for their ill example and averseness to the public good." So much for voluntary contributions at that period!

1666.  
Great fire of London.

This year one of the most dreadful conflagrations that ever happened in any age or country, broke out in this city.† The fire commenced in Pudding-lane, and extended

\* The Company gave a grand entertainment, in August 1665, "for the success of his Majesty's naval force against the Dutch."

† For the particulars of this fire, see the *London Gazette*, 10 Sept. 1666.

its ravages from Tower-hill to the Temple; and, northward, as far as London-wall, destroying in its progress not only Grocers' Hall and the adjacent offices, as I have already stated,\* but the whole of the Company's property and houses, excepting a few small tenements in Grub-street.† The Court of Assistants assembled at the Turret-house, in the garden, the only place the fire had spared, as soon as the panic caused by this dreadful visitation had, in some degree, subsided, and a committee was appointed to take into serious consideration the situation of the Company, to devise means of liquidating the debts and relieving its burthens. As almost every individual attached to the Company had suffered in the general calamity, the first measure adopted was “to suspend the payment of interest “on the Company's debts for the present,” any attempt to levy a personal contribution at this moment being considered superfluous.‡ A schedule of the houses and rents belonging to the Company, as they existed before the fire, was ordered to be prepared, together with a note of the terms and periods of expiration of the leases. This was a matter of no difficulty, for, as I have already stated, the records and papers were the only things appertaining to the Grocers' Company which escaped the all-devouring element.

\* See page 29.

† William Robinson, by will, dated 9 August 1661, gave the Company all his tenements in Grub-street, chargeable with several annual payments, as detailed in the Report of the “ Commissioners for inquiring “concerning Charities,” appointed by Parliament in 1818.

‡ “The fire laid waste and consumed the buildings on 436 acres of “ground, 400 streets, lanes, &c., 13,200 houses, St. Paul's cathedral, “86 parish churches, 6 chapels, Guildhall, the Royal Exchange, the “Custom-house, Blackwell-hall, divers hospitals and libraries, 52 of “the companies' halls, 3 of the city gates, 4 stone bridges, and the “prisons of Newgate, the Fleet, the Poultry, and Wood-street compters. “The loss of which, together with that of merchandize and household “furniture, by the best calculation, amounted to £10,730,500. Yet, “notwithstanding this terrible devastation, only six persons lost their “lives.”—*Maitland's History of London*, vol. i.

1667.  
Fire-com-  
mittee.

The Committee continued its sittings until November 1667, at which period they were requested to consider the interests of the Company's tenants, their applications and desires respecting new leases for the houses which had been destroyed. They recommended, in reply, that a petition should be presented to Parliament “for an Act to empower “the raising of money upon the members of the Company “for payment of debts, as the readiest and surest way “for effecting the same,” and that £20,000 should be the amount to be raised for the purpose. In the mean while every nerve was strained to enable the Wardens to sustain the credit of the Company; the silver in the Hall, which had been melted by the fire, was sold to meet the present wants,\* an addition of ninety-four members was made to the livery, and the result was, that, in December 1668, the Wardens were enabled to discharge one-sixth part of the debts.

1668.  
Parlour  
and Court-  
room built  
by Sir  
John Cut-  
ler.

A parlour and court-room having been erected at the sole cost and charges of that zealous friend of the Company, Sir John Cutler,† the Company were once more enabled to hold meetings in a place of their own; and, accordingly, as the situation of their affairs became more unpleasant, on account of the clamours of their creditors, heightened and increased, no doubt, by the losses occasioned by the late conflagration, the recommendation of the Committee was adopted, and a general meeting of the whole Company held on the 12th of November 1669. As the proceedings of that and of several subsequent meetings on the same subject are highly interesting, I have extracted them *verbatim* from the books:—

1669.  
General  
meeting of  
the Com-  
pany.

“The occasion of the summons and meeting being partially declared by Sir Richard Pigott, Warden, Sir William Hooker, and Mr. Sheriff Edwards, and the sad condition of the Company laid open, groaning under the great debts and engagements formerly incurred, and under continued clamours and reproaches for non-

\* See page 30.

† See pages 31 and 32.

“ payment and satisfaction, and inviting to a cheerful  
“ and ready assistance for supporting the society and  
“ redeeming the honour and reputation of this great and,  
“ formerly, eminent Company, and it being by common  
“ consent and agreement declared that the loan of the  
“ great part of the money (whereby the Company became  
“ so deeply involved) in former times, that if any danger  
“ or loss do fall upon this Company thereby, it should be  
“ equally and contributorily borne and made good by the  
“ particular members of the Corporation ; and the active  
“ instruments and promoters of these great engagements  
“ and loans being passed away, and an act of indemnity  
“ and oblivion since granted and in force for the actions  
“ of those times, there was no other way now left for the  
“ discharging of the great debt now run up, and amounting  
“ to £24,000 at least, upon bonds and interest, and  
“ redeeming the Company’s honour and freedom from  
“ suits, seizures, and vexations, but by the helping hands  
“ of the present fraternity, in some expedient way to be  
“ for that end advised and concluded ; which being  
“ assented to by the brotherhood this day assembled, it is  
“ by unanimous consent, upon the question, agreed and  
“ thought fit that the Company’s debts be satisfied, and  
“ the persons now present do declare, by the holding up  
“ of their hands, their willingness and concurrence therein.  
“ Two ways being proposed by the assembly for raising of  
“ moneys for that occasion, either by voluntary subscription  
“ and contribution among the members of the Company,  
“ or by way of petition for a parliamentary authority for  
“ an equal distribution of the charge, if the other be  
“ not likely to produce the expected effect. That time,  
“ opportunity, and advantages be not lost by too long  
“ protraction and delay ; but, upon debate of the matter,  
“ it was moved and desired by divers of the Livery  
“ and Generality, that a further day be given, and that  
“ those absent may not be concluded by the party now  
“ appearing, they being inconsiderable to the rest, and  
“ most of those that came upon the summons this day

“ unwitting of the occasion, and had not time to consult  
 “ their own minds for so serious a work, and that the  
 “ cause of the summons may be expressed in the tickets.  
 “ It is, therefore, agreed, for full satisfaction to all desires,  
 “ that summons be again made out for assembling the  
 “ whole body of the Company, on Wednesday, the 17th  
 “ instant, at this Hall, at two of the clock in the afternoon,  
 “ and the occasion to be set down *for raising of moneys*  
 “ *towards satisfying the Company's debts, the way and*  
 “ *manner to be then resolved on:* the persons now present  
 “ promising their readiness of appearance at the next  
 “ meeting.”

Petition to  
Parlia-  
ment.

In pursuance of the above resolution, another general meeting of the Company was held on the 17th November 1669, and, after a lengthened debate, it was agreed to try the experiment of a petition to Parliament, the success of a voluntary contribution of the members being despaired of, in consequence of the failure of the former attempt to raise money by similar means for the rebuilding of the Hall. As the petition fully and clearly sets forth the situation of the Company at that time, and the causes which led to it, a copy of it is here given *verbatim* :—

“ The form of the Petition agreed to be presented to the  
 “ Parliament.  
 “ To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and  
 “ Burgesses assembled in the Commons House  
 “ of Parliament.  
 “ The humble Petition of the Wardens, Assistants,  
 “ Livery, and Commonalty of the Company of  
 “ Grocers, of the City of London,  
 “ Sheweth,  
 “ That the petitioners, being an ancient Corporation,  
 “ have in several ages, by the charity of well-disposed  
 “ persons, been entrusted with divers lands, rents, and  
 “ gifts, and, by means thereof, are charged with the  
 “ maintenance of and contribution to several hospitals,  
 “ alms-houses, schools, provisions for ministers, exhibi-

“ tions to poor scholars in the universities, and other good  
“ and charitable uses.

“ That, in the year 1642, when the kingdom of Ireland  
“ was greatly distressed by the rebellion newly risen there,  
“ this Company having then a considerable estate, which  
“ is since impaired by the late fire, did, upon the credit  
“ of their common seal, borrow and advance the sum of  
“ £9000 for the relief and defence of that his Majesty’s  
“ kingdom, and have been constrained to borrow of  
“ others and to pay in the said whole £9000 principal,  
“ with the growing interest thereof till since the late fire,  
“ and are in debt for the interest since then, being in all  
“ about 27 years, being reimbursed no more than £645,  
“ whereby the said Company is become greatly indebted  
“ to several widows, orphans, and other persons, divers of  
“ which will be inevitably ruined, if the Company be not  
“ enabled to satisfy them.

“ That the Petitioners’ estate, consisting, principally,  
“ in houses destroyed by the late dreadful fire, and they  
“ being now in no capacity to raise money, either by  
“ making or enlarging of leases or any other way, and the  
“ now remaining part of their estate not being sufficient to  
“ defray the ordinary charges of the said Company, as by  
“ their books doth appear, they are disabled, as a Corpo-  
“ ration, to satisfy their debts, or discharge those many  
“ debts and trusts upon them which they are obliged to;  
“ that, at the time of the advancing of the said sum of  
“ £9000, it was agreed, by the Assistants, Livery, and  
“ Commonalty of the said Company, then assembled at  
“ a general meeting at Grocers’ Hall, that if any damage  
“ or loss should happen to the Company by reason of the  
“ said advantage, that every brother of the Company, of  
“ ability, should contribute towards satisfaction thereof  
“ such rateable share as, by the Wardens and Assistants  
“ of the said Company for the time being, should be  
“ assessed.

“ May it, therefore, please this Honourable House to  
“ give leave for a Bill to be brought in, whereby power

“ may be given for and towards the satisfaction of the  
 “ debts of the said Company, to raise the sum of £20,000,  
 “ by an equal assessment upon the several members of  
 “ the said Company of ability, under such course for  
 “ appeals and other provision for their just proceedings,  
 “ as in your wisdoms shall seem meet.

“ And your Petitioners, in duty bound,  
 “ shall ever pray.”

1670. A subsequent meeting was held at the Hall on the 11th of May 1670, and was attended by a very moderate number of the Company. The application to Parliament, before alluded to, was, by Sir Richard Pigott, the master, declared to have failed ; and he stated the present assembling of the brotherhood to be with the intention of preserving the honour of the Company, by an endeavour to raise money among themselves for the satisfaction of their debts. It was moved and resolved, that, in order to gain a better attendance and appearance of the Livery, a dinner should be made on the 30th of this month, for “ the more likely promoting the work in hand.”

A common hall.

The consideration of this important question was, accordingly, resumed on the 30th of May ; and the causes of the Company’s present distress again detailed : upon which “ it was thought fit (no other expedient being left) to summon a common-hall, that an assessment or subscription “ may be made, by every brother of the Company, towards “ the satisfying of their just debts and engagements, to “ uphold the honor and preserve the well-being of this “ great and ancient Company.” A resolution was then passed, that books should be opened at the Hall to receive the names of the subscribers, that their contribution “ shall be paid upon the terms, and in the manner “ following, yearly ; that is to say, one-fifth part thereof “ every year, for five years next ensuing ; and that, “ unless the whole sum of £20,000 be subscribed at or “ before the 28th of November next, 1670, every one “ that has subscribed to be discharged of his subscrip- “ tion ;” but if the amount was by that time filled up,

" then every subscriber, his heirs, executors, and administrators, is engaged to pay the sum respectively subscribed for the purpose aforesaid ; " and a committee was appointed to conduct the business.

The individual distress inflicted on the members by the fire of London, evidently absorbed all ideas of that of the Company ; for, on the 25th of November, the amount subscribed was under £6000.\* The Master and Wardens, nothing discouraged, proposed an addition to the number of the Committee, the members of which undertook to make personal application to the Livery and Commonalty, and the next meeting upon this subject was postponed until the mid-summer following.

In the meanwhile the situation of the Company became daily more embarrassing, on account of the increasing clamour of the creditors. Some of them presented a petition to Parliament, in January 1671, praying that an act might be passed " for the sale of the Company's Hall, " lands, and estate, for satisfying the debts owing ; " to counteract which the Court published what was termed the Company's vindication, and circulated a thousand copies of it ; while, in a memorial to the Court of Aldermen, they prayed for aid and assistance, on the plea that the Company's distress arose, in part, from the loans made to the City. Threats of legal proceedings had been issued from various quarters : but the storm did not burst until 1672. The Governors of Christ's Hospital were the first to enter the lists, by serving the Master and Wardens with a writ in Chancery for the payment of Lady Conway's charity.†

1671.  
The creditors' petition to Parliament.

\* " The several members then at the helm, who (most of them greatly suffered in their own private capacities) were separated, and so taken up with care of disposing of themselves and families, that very few could attend the affairs of the Company.—*Ravenhill*, page 9.

† Viscountess Conway left a sum of money to the Grocers' Company, upon trust, the interest of which was to be applied to various uses, as specified in the report of the Commissioners for Inquiring into Charities, and particularly the sum of £20 to the Governors of Christ's Hospital, for them to place out four poor children of freemen of the City, from the said hospital.

This was followed by a suit, urged in the same Court, by one Chomley; others by Cropley, Moore, and by several of the parishes having claims upon the Company. The catastrophe seems to have been the seizure of the Hall, under sequester, by the Governors of Christ's Hospital, and the ejectment of the members, who were obliged to hold their meetings at various places, as has been already stated.\*

1673. A Committee, appointed to consider the best mode of extricating the Company from its difficulties, submitted the following proposals for relief, to be considered, viz.—

1. An application to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen for the money lent to the City.
2. The disposal of the Irish lands.
3. An admission of members to the livery.
4. Subscriptions of the particular members to be vigorously pressed.
5. An address to His Majesty for re-payment of the money advanced on the security of certain lords.

1674.  
Application to the  
Court of  
Aldermen.

The first step taken, in consequence of the above recommendations, was a strong application to the Court of Aldermen, “for the payment of the Citty's debt;” to which their worships returned the following laconic answer, “that the Chamber had not the money;” and recommended that the Grocers should raise money as the other Companies had done.

“ Soon after,” says Ravenhill, “it pleased God to stir up several worthy members, who (continuing their endeavours to carry on so good a work begun) procured money to be raised on security of their revenue, to discharge those sequestrations; and, by letting their lands in Ireland, sinking the rent to £10 per annum; † and, by benevolences and gifts of their members, paid off a good part of their debts; and, to supply what they

\* See page 33.

† In June, 1675, the Company demised their lands in Ireland to Mr. George Finch, upon a lease for thirty-one years, from Allhallow-tide, 1676, at £10 a-year rent, and a fine of £3600.

" could not otherways for the present advance, they took  
" up money upon security of the equity of redemption  
" of their whole estate ; whereby it plainly appears, they  
" used all ways and means to preserve their Hall and  
" ground-rent, as a seed for their posterity ; they having  
" already paid, of their own benevolence and what they  
" have so borrowed on security of the remaining part of  
" their estate, far above the real value (to be sold) of what  
" they receive thereout, over and above the yearly charities,  
" wherewith the same are charged by the donours."

All these, however, were but temporary expedients, and quite inadequate to give effectual relief to the Company. Towards the close of the year 1680, the creditors became more urgent than ever, threatening further legal proceedings if their demands were not liquidated ; attachments were laid on the rent due by the tenants ; and, in short, every mode of compulsion which legal ingenuity could suggest was resorted to. On the other hand, one of the most fruitful sources of emolument, that which arose from fines levied upon new members, was stopped, owing, as the records state, in July 1680, to " many persons having  
" been alarmed at taking up their freedoms and livery in  
" this Company, on account of the heavy charges for  
" which the members have been liable." It became evident that if these apprehensions were not removed from the public mind, the Company would, in a few years, become extinct ; to prevent which, the Wardens and Court of Assistants redoubled their zeal and exertions to stem the torrent which was rushing with such force against them. It was agreed that the most effectual mode of regaining public confidence would be by rebuilding the Hall, and thus retrieving that constant and regular revenue which arose from its being let to the Lord Mayors. Sir John Moore had the glory of being the first to hold forth a liberal example to the members, by contributing £500 towards this desirable object ; he was followed by Sir John Cutler, Sir James Edwards, Sir Henry Tulse, Sir William Hooker,

1680.  
Proceed-  
ings at law  
against the  
Company.

Sir Thomas Foote, and others;\* “ all being fully convinced that if the Hall should long continue under these circumstances, not only all that had been done would be wholly fruitless, but all that remained (for which they were trustees to the generations to come) would soon waste into nothing, which would reproachfully render the present members most ungrateful to their ancestors, whose names still blossom in what remains of those pious monuments of their charities, and obnoxious to those who should succeed happy members of this society.”†

1681.  
The Hall  
restored.

After innumerable obstacles and delays, the restoration of the Hall was completed at Michaelmas 1681, in sufficient time to allow Sir John Moore to keep his mayoralty there. Ravenhill describes it as “ far excelling any hall that now is, or, probably, ever was in London ;” but he adds, “ that the charge of completing the same, although regulated with as good husbandry as was possible to be managed, yet swells to double the sum which was at first propounded to be disbursed, and therefore called for farther assistance of our members than at first was designed, to contribute to the same ; which work being so completely finished, manifestly appears to have been the only means left to keep the Company upon a foundation, which, otherwise, must, in a short time, have naturally dissolved of itself ; for that the apprentices and freemen, of any estate or value, who, before wholly declined, have now (that is, in 1689) daily increased, as having a prospect, by what is visible, of a prosperous carrying on the whole work answerable thereto : which work, now compleated, is in itself of far greater value than all the other part of the Company’s revenue (over and above the charities issuing thereout), and that those several sums so subscribed were thus freely given by several worthy members on purpose for this great work ; that it might incou-

\* For particulars respecting the restoration of the Hall, see page 34.  
† Ravenhill.

" rage the whole members, freely and liberally to contribute  
 " towards the residue of this work and the debts."

This appeal, on the part of the worthy Mr. Ravenhill, however pathetic in his opinion, had but little weight with the Liverymen of the Company; the additional burthen laid upon their shoulders by the excess of the estimates for building was not to their taste, and the money came in very slowly. Measures of security became necessary, in order to prevent a second sequestration, the Hall having become more valuable than before; and, accordingly, the worthy clerk goes on to state " that the beautifying and " repairing their Hall might not prove a bait to such creditors " (if any should be) as formerly seized the ruines of the " same, to endeavour again a sequestration against it, but " might answer those good ends so by them designed: the " Company, by advice of learned counsel, after an inqui- " sition taken before the Commissioners for Charitable " Uses, and pursuant to a decree made by those Commis- " sioners, have conveyed the same and all their revenue, " and the equity of redemption thereof (subject to the said " former securities), to trustees, to secure the yearly pay- " ment not only of those charities wherewith that revenue " is charged by the donours, but also with the overplus " (as the same will extend) those other yearly charities, " payable by the Company to several places, persons, and " uses, by the appointment of other benefactors, who " heretofore paid into their hands several sums of money " for other uses, (for which now no fund remains,) that they " might also thereby not only discharge their consciences " towards God and the memory of such pious benefactors, " but also avoid the chargeable prosecutions of the Com- " missioners upon the statute for charitable uses, who " have, of late, put this Company every year to exceeding " great charges and expences."

To secure an accession of influence and talent for the support of the Company's affairs, a considerable number of freemen was called to the Livery, and, in August and September 1681, eighty-one members were added to the Court

Increase of  
the Court  
and Li-  
very.

of Assistants. Every exertion was made to forward the subscription, and thus, gradually, to extricate the Company from its embarrassments ; a task of no small difficulty, for, although the energy of the leading members of the Court had achieved much, a great deal remained to be done.

1682.  
A freeman  
by redemp-  
tion.

On the 13th of February 1682, I find a circumstance recorded which gives evidence of a privilege of the Lord Mayors of London at that period, and which, I believe, is now obsolete. It is thus recorded in the journals :—“ This day Mr. Thomas Prettyman appeared in Court, and produced an order of the Court of Aldermen of the 9th instant, whereby it appears that the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor had presented him to that Court to be made free of the City, as the first of three due to his Lordship by prerogative, and that, thereupon, it was ordered he should be taken into the freedom of the City ; upon which this Court, at his humble request and the recommendation of his Lordship, do order he be taken and admitted into this fellowship ; and accordingly, here in Court, the Wardens being present, he is admitted, *as by redemption*, a member of this society of the Grocers.” I ought to state that Sir John Moore, a member of this Company, was the Lord Mayor of that year.

1683.  
Arrange-  
ment with  
Christ's  
Hospital.

The greatest difficulty which the Court of Assistants had to encounter, in their endeavours to conciliate the creditors, was with the body of Governors of Christ's Hospital. As they had been the most prompt in acting against the Company, so, on the present occasion, they opposed obstacles to any arrangement, save that of an immediate payment of their whole demand. They claimed arrears and charges as follows, viz.

On £20 per annum for Lady Conway's gift for nine years, and £140 for charges.

On £10 per annum on Lady Middleton's gift.

On £5 per annum on Mary Robinson's gift.

Besides arrears of allowance under Lady Slaney's will, and a debt of £500 bequeathed to them. After much debate, it was agreed that the matter should be left to arbitration,

and five persons were chosen on each side, whose decision should be considered as final. They decreed that a part of the claim should be paid in fourteen days, and the remainder by yearly instalments: this decision gave great satisfaction to both parties, and was highly advantageous to the Company, as it paved the way towards bringing their other refractory creditors to a similar arrangement. The situation of the Company improved by degrees, and every expectation was entertained that, by economy and by perseverance in the course pointed out by the arbitrators, they might, at length, become free from all embarrassments, and recover their ancient importance in the City; but an event occurred which threatened to neutralize the expected benefit, and to defeat the hopes which had been cherished.

The event to which I allude is the issuing of the celebrated writ of *quo warranto* by Charles II. in 1684, against the City charters and liberties. The circumstances which gave rise to this arbitrary proceeding arose from the illegal interference of the court with the privileges of the citizens in their election of Sheriffs, and are detailed at length in the biographical sketch of Sir John Moore, at the end of this volume. The court party, with his assistance as Lord Mayor, succeeded in forcing the election of their own candidates for that time; but, being conscious that to accomplish their purpose a fresh struggle was to be encountered every year, they resolved to strike a blow that should at once obviate all future interruption in their progress, that should fetter parliament altogether, and leave the lives and liberties of the subject entirely at the mercy of the Crown. Their project was to seize the charters of all the corporate boroughs in England. Sawyer, the attorney-general, with a previous understanding in the proper legal quarters, intimated that he could undertake to prove a forfeiture of the city charters and liberties.\* A writ of *quo warranto*, that is an inquiry into the validity of the charter, was authorised to be prosecuted; and

1684.  
Writ of  
*quo war-  
ranto.*

\* Maitland, vol. i. p. 477. Burnet, History of his own Time.

Charles well knew that a victory over this strong hold of liberty, would be followed by the implicit surrender of all other corporations, where the establishment of the Court influence might be thought necessary. The pretence of forfeiture was, first, an act of Common Council, passed nine years previous, by which a new rate of tolls had been levied on persons using the public markets which had been rebuilt after the great fire : secondly, a petition presented to the King two years before, in which it was alleged that, by the King's prorogation of parliament, public justice had been interrupted, and which petition the Court of Common Council had caused to be printed. Whether any corporation *could* forfeit its existence, *as a corporation*, by any abuse of its powers, or even by voluntary surrender, was not at this time clearly settled, nor indeed is it now.\* Whether the *representatives* of a corporation, such as the Court of Common Council, could effect a forfeiture of the rights of their constituents (which would imply that they could, by an act of their own, defeat the trust reposed in them, and alter the essential constitution of the body at large) may still more reasonably be doubted ; and ample authorities may be referred to, showing that it cannot. But that a bye-law, if bad or doubtful, or a disrespectful address to the King, however reprehensible, could legally produce any such effect, is a position hardly requiring to be confuted ; especially when it is known that, by one of the city charters, it is specifically provided, that none of its liberties or franchises are to be forfeited by any abuse of them whatever.†

Measures taken by the Company.

Having thus, by way of preliminary, stated the causes which induced Charles to take this impolitic and unpopular step, I shall briefly relate how the Grocers' Company acted on the occasion. On the 28th of March 1684, the Wardens acquainted the Court " that they had received his Ma-

\* Kyd on Corporations, vol. ii.

† Charter 7th Richard II. The above account is, in great measure, taken from Norton's Commentaries on the Franchises of the City of London.

“ jesty’s writ, in the nature of a *quo warranto*, returnable  
“ the first day of the term;” and they stated, further, that  
the same had been served on the other chief Companies.  
The first step resolved upon was the election of a com-  
mittee to conduct the proceedings on the part of the Com-  
pany; and the chief persons who composed it were the  
Lord Mayor, the Earl of Berkeley, who had served the  
office of master the year preceding, Sir William Hooker,  
Sir John Cutler, and others. A deputation, attended by  
the clerk, waited on Mr. Secretary Jenkins, on the 9th of  
April, “ in order to be informed what might be acceptable  
“ to his Majesty as expected to be done by this Company  
“ in obedience to the said writ, to the end the Committee  
“ might so report to the Court, that the Company might,  
“ without delay, act as became loyal subjects and pru-  
“ dent members, having also regard to the trust in them  
“ reposed? They received for answer, from the Secretary,  
“ that his Majesty designed not to intermeddle or take  
“ away of the rights, property, or privileges of any Com-  
“ pany, nor to destroy or injure their ancient usages or  
“ franchises of their Corporations, but *only a regulation of*  
“ *the governing part*, so as his M<sup>aty</sup> might, for the future,  
“ have in himself a moving power of any officer therein for  
“ misgovernment, in the same way and method that they  
“ themselves now used and claymed to have by power  
“ derivable from the Crown,” or, in other words, that they  
should be incapable of exercising that free control over  
their own affairs which all their charters, even that  
granted by Cromwell, had so solemnly conferred upon  
them. Resistance was considered fruitless, and, therefore,  
in order to derive all possible advantage from their ready  
submission, the Clerk was ordered to prepare *an instrument*  
*of surrender* to pass the common seal, and to accompany it  
by a petition to his Majesty, “ in order to obviate his further  
“ displeasure in prosecution of the said writ, and to ob-  
“ taine his grace and favour of the ancient charters, rights,  
“ and privileges of this Company.” In pursuance of an  
order of the Court, the Wardens were directed to consult

Mr. Holt, the counsel, respecting the same writing or instrument; and he gave the following opinion, viz. " that " the writing, so to be passed under the seal of the Company, does not in any way amount to a surrender of their charter or corporation, or any way to extinguish or weaken any franchise or liberty of the Company, but only their power of naming and chusing their Wardens and Assistants, and Clerk, under such regulations for the future, as His Majesty shall, in his great wisdom, think fit for the well governing of the Company; " and, notwithstanding such surrender when made, the Corporation will still remain upon its old foundation, and shall enjoy all its ancient rights and liberty, and be in the same capacity every way, under such regulation as it was before such surrender made. All which being debated in Court, and information given that other Companies in London are already prepared and very forward to attend His Majesty with cheerful and ready compliance with his gracious demands by his said writ, this Court thought fit, in order to the security and welfare of the whole Society, that this Company, which his Majesty has been graciously pleased so highly above others to honour, in condescending himself to become a member of it, might not come behind others in demonstration of their loyalty and submission, herein have thought fit to order that the whole Commonalty be summoned to meet here at the Hall this afternoon, at two of the clock, in order to have their application and complete the whole matter of a speedy address to His Majesty."

Although the notice was short, the Assistants, Livery, and Commonalty assembled in great numbers, and the petition to the King, with the *instrument* before alluded to, were submitted to them, couched in the following terms:—

## THE PETITION.

“ To the King’s most excellent Majesty.

“ The humble Petition of the Wardens and Commonalty

“ of the Mystery of the Grocerie of London,

“ In most humble manner sheweth, that your Majesty’s  
 “ royal progenitors, Kings and Queens of England, did,  
 “ by the several letters patent under the great seal, incor-  
 “ porate your petitioners, by which divers immunities,  
 “ privileges, and franchises were granted to your petition-  
 “ ers, and for that, lately, your sacred Majesty in your  
 “ princely wisdom has thought fit to bring a *quo warranto*  
 “ against your petitioners, which has given your petitioners  
 “ just occasion to feare they have highly offended your  
 “ sacred Majesty, whom in duty and allegiance they ought  
 “ to obey;

“ Your petitioners earnestly beg that your Majesty  
 “ would be graciously pleased to pardon and remit what is  
 “ passed, and to accept of our humble submission to your  
 “ sacred Majesty’s good will and pleasure; and that your  
 “ Majesty will further graciously be pleased to continue  
 “ our former Charters, with such regulations for the  
 “ government of the said Company as your sacred Majesty  
 “ shall think fit.

“ And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever  
 “ pray,” &c.

Petition  
to his  
Majesty.

## THE INSTRUMENT.

“ To all whom these presents shall come, the Wardens  
 “ and Commonalty of the Mystery of the Grocerie of the  
 “ City of London send greeting;

“ Know ye, that we, considering how much it imports  
 “ the concernment of our Company, to have men of known  
 “ loyalty and approved integrity to bear offices of magis-  
 “ tracy and places of trust in the said Company, the said  
 “ Wardens and Commonalty have granted, surrendered,  
 “ and yielded up, and by these presents do grant, surren-  
 “ der, and yield up unto his most gracious Majesty King

“ Charles the Second, by the grace of God, King of  
“ England, or his heirs and successors, all and singular  
“ the powers, franchises, privileges, libertys, and autho-  
“ ritys whatsoever, granted, or to be used or exercised by  
“ the said Wardens or Commonalty, by virtue of any right,  
“ title, or interest vested in them by any charters, letters  
“ patent, custom, or prescription in force, of or concerning  
“ the electing, nominating, constituting, being, and ap-  
“ pointing of any person or persons into, or for the several  
“ and respective offices of Wardens, Assistants, and Clerk  
“ of the said Company; and the said Wardens and Com-  
“ monalty do hereby humbly beseech His Majesty to  
“ accept of this their surrender, and do, with all submis-  
“ sion to His Majesty’s good pleasure, implore his grace  
“ and favour, to re-grant to the said Wardens and Com-  
“ monalty the naming and choosing of the said offices, and  
“ the said libertys or franchises, or so many of them as  
“ His Majesty, in his great wisdom, shall judge most  
“ conducive to the government of the said Company, and  
“ with and under such reservations, restrictions, and  
“ qualifications, as His Majesty, in his princely wisdom,  
“ shall be pleased to appoint. In witnessse whereof, the  
“ said Wardens and Commonalty have hereunto affixed  
“ their common seal, the eighth day of April, in the six-  
“ and-thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord  
“ Charles the Second, by the grace of God, of England,  
“ Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the  
“ Faith, &c. and in the year of our Lord Christ, one  
“ thousand six hundred and eighty-four.”

The above documents having been solemnly read, and the question for their adoption put, it was carried unanimously, and the Company’s seal ordered to be affixed to them. A deputation was also appointed to attend His Majesty therewith at Windsor.

Interview  
with  
Charles II.

The Wardens reported, on the 9th of May, that pursuant to the order of the Assembly, met the 12th of April last, they, with Sir James Edwards, Sir John Moore, and divers other members, attended His Majesty, at Windsor, on

Sunday last. That His Majesty, being informed that a deputation of the Grocers was in attendance, " came forth " &, with a very kind aspect, received them ; where Sir " James Edwards, at the request of the rest of the mem- " bers, presented the petition and instrument, and de- " clared to His Majesty, in the presence of the Lord " Keeper, Lord Chief Justice, and many of the nobility, that " his loyal subjects, the Grocers, (the Company His Ma- " jesty had been graciously pleased to make with a double " stroke of his favour, in condescending so low as to " become a member of their fraternity,) had no sooner " read the writ of *quo warranto* but they called their " Assistants and consulted, and soon resolved upon their " duty ; and, summoning their commonalty together, they " had, unanimously, (not one dissenting member,) agreed " that a short, humble address, which, together with the " instrument under their common seal, in the name of " the whole Company of Grocers, they humbly prostrated " at His Majesty's feet ; and so on his knee presented " them, which His Majesty most graciously received, " declaring to them he was a member of their Company, " and they might assure themselves of all kindness and " favour he could, according to the laws, bestow upon " them ; and so His Majesty went to Chapel, dismissing " the whole assembly, without hearing any other persons ; " and committed the Company's petition to the care of " Sir Lionel Jenkins, with particular command to take " care of this Company ; and that Sir Lionel Jenkins has " since got the same referred, and declared himself very " zealous and affectionate to serve this Company to the " utmost of his power ; that all care and diligence have " since been used to search records and make preparation, " that the Company may have a confirmation of their " Charter to the best benefit and advantage."

The King having obtained, by means of corrupt judges, a verdict on the *quo warranto* against the City, the following sentence was pronounced by Justice Jones, on the 12th of June, 1684, in Trinity term :—

Judgment  
against the  
City.

" That a City might forfeit its charter; that the malversations of the Common Council were the acts of the whole City; and that the two points set forth in the pleadings were just grounds for the forfeiting of a charter; upon which premises the proper conclusion seemed to be, that, therefore, the City of London had forfeited their charter!"

But the consequences of enforcing the forfeiture were so much apprehended, that it was not thought fit to venture upon it immediately; and the Attorney General moved, contrary to the usual custom in such cases, that the judgement might not be recorded.\*

The citizens, in the meanwhile, after much debate and consideration, agreed to submit themselves and their case to the King: the Lord Mayor and a deputation repaired to Windsor, where they had an interview with His Majesty, who accepted their submission on the following conditions: viz. that, " in future, no Lord Mayor, Alderman, Sheriff, Recorder, or other officer, should be allowed to enter upon his office without the previous sanction of the King; " that, if persons elected to any of the above offices did not meet His Majesty's approbation, that he might elect others, by commission, if he pleased." The Lord Mayor communicated the six conditions, of which the above is the substance, to the citizens in Common Hall assembled, where, after violent opposition, they were carried by a majority of eighteen, to the surprise of all the friends of liberty.†

1685.  
Death of  
Charles II.

The natural consequence of this servile submission was, that, in a short time, all the Aldermen obnoxious to the Court, were got rid of, and others chosen in their room by royal commission. A new Lord Mayor and Recorder, and new Sheriffs were appointed, in the same manner, to act during pleasure. In short, the City and the Companies of London, at the death of Charles II., in February 1685,

\* It was entered a short time afterwards, when the citizens had made their submission.—*Kennet's History of England*.

† Kennet's History of England.—Maitland's History of London.

were left with charters scarcely deserving the name, which placed their liberties and municipal privileges at the disposal of the Crown, in a manner unprecedented in the annals of English history.

That “unreal mockery,” miscalled the charter of the Grocers’ Company, was in no degree more favourable than that of the City. It commences with a recital of the *Instrument*, or surrender of the Wardens and Assistants, and goes on to state that His Majesty is graciously pleased to grant them another charter, *under such restrictions as he shall think fit*. He incorporates them by their ancient name of “*The Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Grocery of London*,” to have perpetual succession; and to have power, yearly, to choose Wardens, with the *proviso*, however, that they must hold communion with the Church of England, and that they shall have received the holy sacrament according to the forms prescribed by the church, within six months before; that after their election they shall, before they act, take the several oaths, and subscribe the declaration appointed by act of parliament. The Wardens’ and Clerk’s names are, by a special clause, to be first presented to the King, and if approved, under the sign manual or privy signet, they may proceed to take the oaths; if, on the contrary, they are rejected, the Court of Assistants are to elect others, and so on, from time to time, until His Majesty is satisfied: every election made contrary to this clause to be null and void. The King reserves to himself the power of removing, by an order of privy council, any Wardens, Assistants, or Clerk. The said Wardens and Commonalty are to be subject to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, who are to approve all persons proposed to be admitted to the clothing. In short, although there are several apparent privileges detailed in this charter, all liberty of will and of action is effectually absorbed, and the Company are allowed to exist only during the pleasure of the King; and, as if in bitter irony of the rest, this memorable document closes

Charter of  
Charles II.

with “ a confirmation of all charters, grants, usages, and  
 “ privileges in and by all things; so that the Company  
 “ shall not be troubled or molested by the King, his heirs,  
 “ or successors, or any of their ministers, for or by reason  
 “ of any abuse or misusage for the past ! ”

1686.  
New bye-  
laws.

Mr. Ravenhill states that the Grocers' Company, “ when  
 “ the *quo warranto* was brought against them, anno 1684,  
 “ were (of all Companies in London) under the most  
 “ irregular government, as to bye-laws and ordinances, to  
 “ warrant their actions and proceedings, not having any  
 “ extant (that he could find), made and legally confirmed,  
 “ since the time of King Henry VIII.; in whose reign,  
 “ (continues he,) by search, I found on record, in the  
 “ town-clerk's office, many suited to the distempers and na-  
 “ ture of the mystery of the Grocery in those days : ” having  
 taken copies, amounting to nearly one hundred sheets,  
 he found most of them obsolete and inapplicable to the time.  
 The renewal of the charter offered, in the opinion of the  
 Court of Assistants, an excellent opportunity of framing  
 a new set of bye-laws;\* and, availing themselves of the  
 assistance and influence of the Earl of Mulgrave,† their  
 Master for the year, they procured, what is termed in the  
 records, “ an enlargement of their charter,” with the fol-  
 lowing advantages, viz. a confirmation of the charter of  
 Henry VI., granting the office of garbling to the Company,  
 in all places in this kingdom, the City of London excepted,  
 and “ declaring the species of the mystery, which in former  
 “ charters was expressed under the denomination of *Gro-  
 “ cery*, but, in the present, was declared to include all  
 “ druggists, tobacconists, and tobacco-cutters.”

Accession  
of James  
II. and his  
tyranny.

It had been suspected that Charles II., naturally a good-  
 natured man, had been influenced in those measures against  
 the liberty of the subject, which impressed so deep a stain on

\* They were not finally completed and approved until the beginning of 1688.

† Afterwards created Duke of Buckinghamshire.

the latter part of his reign, by the counsels of his brother, the Duke of York. The conduct of James, on attaining the crown, fully confirmed these suspicions ; for his first act was an infringement of the most sacred right of the citizens. His jealousy respecting the election of members in his new parliament was so excessive, that on the 6th of May 1685, he directed the Lord Mayor to issue precepts to the Companies, the object of which was to influence the selection of voters. The one addressed to the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Grocers' Company, required “a return of such *loyal* and *worthy* members as “*may be judged worthy and fit* to be, by the Lord Mayor “and Court of Aldermen, *approved of* as Liverymen to “elect members to serve for the City of London at the ap-“proaching parliament.” The allusion to the judgment of the Court of Aldermen was the more insulting, as the commission issued at the commencement of the year, to which I have already alluded, had appointed sixteen new Aldermen, and had degraded eight of the old ones, known to be of independent principles. He next proceeded to wreak his vengeance on Alderman Cornish, who, together with one Bethel, had been chosen Sheriff in opposition to the Court, and who had shewn himself a staunch supporter of the Exclusion-bill. The proceedings against Cornish excited universal indignation ; he was thrown into prison, and after remaining there for a few days, was suddenly informed, on Saturday at noon, that an indictment for high treason was prepared against him, and that he would be tried on the ensuing Monday. His children petitioned the King for time to prepare their father's defence, and for a copy of the indictment, the nature of the charge being unknown to the prisoner ; they urged that his witnesses were at a distance, and that he was, in consequence, unable to establish the proofs of his innocence. The subtle monarch referred the petition to his venal judges, who, of course, rejected it. The trial took place on the Monday, and a conviction followed, obtained on the sole evidence

of two pardoned traitors.\* He was executed within a week of his committal, and, a few days afterwards, his innocence and the perjury of the witnesses for the prosecution were so clearly established, that the King could not forbear returning the forfeited estates to the injured family.

This execution was, of itself, sufficient to alienate, for ever, the affections of James's subjects, had they entertained any towards his person ; but his subsequent acts, in levying duties without the authority of parliament, in dispensing with the operation of the Test-act, and, finally, in prosecuting the seven bishops, so completely detached the body of the people from his interests, that they adopted the resolution of expelling him from the throne, and of inviting William, Prince of Orange, to reign in his place. The instant James was apprised of his danger, he sent for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and voluntarily declared his determination to restore the City charters and liberties as they existed before the issuing of the writ of *quo warranto*. His great legal adviser, Jefferies, accordingly came to Guildhall and delivered the charter, with two grants of restoration, to the Court of Aldermen.†

1687.  
Gratuity to  
Mr. Raven-  
hill.

In August 1687, the Court of Assistants, taking into consideration the many and valuable services rendered to the Company by Mr. Ravenhill, their clerk, during the period of their embarrassments, and the pains taken by him in drawing up and printing what was termed *the Company's case*, a publication eminently useful, as it explained the true causes of their inability to discharge their charities and other obligations, and thus rescued them from the obloquy incurred at the period of the sequestration of the Hall, and of the suits prosecuted against them, voted him a gratuity of two hundred pounds, and another of one hundred to his son for his assistance.

\* Goodenough, the seditious under-sheriff of London, who had been engaged in the Rye-house plot, and was taken prisoner after the battle of Sedgemoor, and Colonel Rumsey.—*Hume*, vol. viii.

† Norton's *Commentaries*, p. 315. *Repertorium*, 1688.

James II. had hardly left London, with the view of encountering his opponents, when several lords of parliament assembled at Guildhall, and in the Court of Aldermen, issued a solemn declaration in favour of the Prince of Orange ; this was followed by an Address of the Court of Common Council, in which they implored that Prince's protection, and promised him a welcome and joyful reception. William shortly afterwards arrived in London, and received from the Corporation a warm address of congratulation through the hands of the Recorder.

The nation having thus emancipated itself from oppression, resolved to secure, at this opportunity, that free and constitutional form of government which had been so ardently desired, and which has since distinguished it above all the empires of the earth. This was accomplished by that memorable statute termed the Bill of Rights. The security of the City of London and of its immunities and privileges, being considered essential to the national welfare, Parliament passed a law,\* declaratory that the judgements obtained upon the late *quo warranto*, and all the consequent proceedings, were illegal and arbitrary ; “ and it was enacted, not only that such judgement should “ be reversed, annulled, and made void, but that the “ Lord Mayor, Citizens, and Commonalty, should for “ ever, thereafter, remain a body corporate and politic, “ without any seizure or fore-judger, or being thereof ex- “ cluded or ousted, upon any pretence of forfeiture or “ misdemeanour, whatsoever, theretofore or thereafter to “ be done, committed, or suffered.” †

In November 1688, the King and Queen published a proclamation, “ for restoring Corporations and members of both dies politique to their state and degree in which they were at the time of the *quo warranto*, brought against them.” On this being read to the Court, the clerk stated that as there was some obscurity in the wording, which threw a doubt as to the Companies in London, and in order to

1688.  
The Revolu-  
tion.

The *quo  
warranto*  
declared to  
be illegal  
by Parlia-  
ment.

1688.  
Cancelling  
of the Com-  
pany's  
surrender.

\* 2 Will. and Mary, sess. 1, c. 8.

† Norton's Commentaries, p. 316

avoid unpleasant consequences, it had appeared to him desirable to procure back the Company's surrender, if not enrolled, and to cancel it. This he had done, and produced it in Court, for which act of foresight and precaution, he received the thanks of the Assistants.

1689.  
King William III.  
Sovereign  
Master of  
the Com-  
pany..

The 22d of October 1689, is a day memorable in the annals of the Grocers' Company. His Majesty, King William III., the restorer of the liberties of the nation at large, and of those of the City, condescended to be enrolled a brother of the Company, and to take upon himself the office of its Sovereign Master for the year. The detail of the proceedings is so curious, that I am unwilling to diminish any portion of the interest it inspires, by offering it to the reader in any other form than that in which it is registered in the Company's books; the extract is as follows:—

1689.  
22d Oct.

“ The 22d October 1689. *Gugl. et Marieæ, Regis et Reginæ, anno primo.* At a Court of Assistants assembled in Grocers' Hall upon this solemn and happy occasion, the right honourable Charles, Earl of Dorsett and Middlesex, Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's household, came here in person this day, and acquainted the Wardens and Assistants, that our most sovereign lord King William, of England, &c. is graciously pleased, of his special grace towards this Company, to assume the title, and graciously permitting their election to be recorded Sovereign Master of this Society, upon which the Wardens and Assistants here assembled do with most humble and grateful sense of such His Majesty's condescension, with thankful hearts, embrace His Majesty's royal favour therein, and do, with most submissive allegiance, in humble manner, elect and receive his Sacred Majesty for their Sovereign Master accordingly; most humbly beseeching His Majesty's gracious acceptance thereof, in an exemplified copy of this entry, together with their most humble duty and thanks, in the name of the whole Company of Grocers, to be presented in a gold box to His Majesty, by the Wardens, and such

“ members as they shall take to their assistance, attending  
“ his honour in so solemn a duty to His Majesty.

“ God save the King and Queen.”

And afterwards the Clerk read the following account of the Company, in Latin and English, viz.

“ *Aula Aromatariorum* (*vulgariter Grocers' Hall,*) olim  
“ nominabatur *Domus illustrissimi Domini Fitzwalter,*  
“ *unius regni hujus Paribus, quam regnante Henrico*  
“ *Sexto, societati Aromatariorum vendidit. Sita est in*  
“ *ipso urbis meditullio, cui adjacet hortus, qui aeri liberi-*  
“ *ori spatium det, necnon area præ foribus satis ampla,*  
“ *quâ Senatorum, vice Comitumque, dum Praetori, re-*  
“ *busque publicis inserviunt, Nobilium etiam quacunque*  
“ *de causâ huc accendentium, currus recipiantur; ac ea de*  
“ *causa Communitas Aromatariorum, post conflagratio-*  
“ *nem urbis horrendum, re-edificabat, ampliorem fecit &*  
“ *omnis generis necessariis adornavit, ut domus ad summum*  
“ *magistratum magnifice recipiendum præ omnibus aliis*  
“ *maxime commoda videretur: Summus enim Magistratus*  
“ *vicem gerit ipsius Regis; nullis igitur sumptibus peper-*  
“ *cit Aromatariorum societas, ut receptaculum esset tanto*  
“ *officio, tanto Magistratu dignum; nam in hoc opere*  
“ *perficiendo, multa expenduntur millia solidorum, ut*  
“ *ædificium esset splendidum, aptum & suis civibus conve-*  
“ *niens, qui in loco hoc sese solemnibus conviviis, amicitiam*  
“ *suam invicem testantur & augent & ab omni civitatis*  
“ *parte congregati huc accedunt, ut mutuam erga seipsos*  
“ *benevolentiam exerceant. Hoc quoque honori & glorie*  
“ *totius regni vertitur dum egredientes & domi redeuntes,*  
“ *peregrini et domestici, autam hanc conspicuam mirantur*  
“ *simil et amant.*

“ *Quod ad antiquitatem spectat egregie hujus Societatis,*  
“ *originem suam longâ serie deducit a mercatoribus Ro-*  
“ *manis, qui cum Orientali orbis regione commercia*  
“ *habuerunt pro aromatibus comparandis & devictâ hac*  
“ *insulâ, urbem habitabant. Quibus nostratum in re*  
“ *nauticâ peritia originem suam debere videtur, saltem*  
“ *ab illis multum incrementi accepit, atque adeo maris*

“ imperium, quod hæc insula large lateque per multa  
 “ retro sæcula obtinuit, eisdem aliquo modo acceptum  
 “ refert. Qua propter in divitiis & abundanti rerum  
 “ copiâ, cæteras omnes communitates facile superabant.  
 “ Hinc ortæ sunt familæ illustrissimæ, mox prolem illus-  
 “ triorem daturæ.

“ Hæc communitas, corpus fit politicum, sub curâ et  
 “ gubernatione quatuor custodum, qui vocari possint su-  
 “ perintendentes, nomine Magistro excluso, ut capiti  
 “ coronato semper locus relinquetur, quem locum Carolus  
 “ Secundus (beatæ memorie) Rex implere non dignatus  
 “ est; cuius nomen, ut æternitati consecraret gratissima  
 “ Societas, statuam ejus erexit in byrsâ Regiâ & in  
 “ registro suo nomen ejus inscriptum habet, ut testimonium  
 “ sit posteris gratitudinis suæ erga Regem tam benignum,  
 “ qui chartam illi fixam reddidit & firmam; quâ in re  
 “ exemplum proposuit Regibus suis successoribus, ut favore  
 “ suo perpetuo communitatem hanc foverent, ut perpetuum  
 “ sit charitatis divisorium & fertilissimum mercatorum  
 “ opulentorum, piorum civium & fidelium subditorum,  
 “ seminarium ”

“ Which may be thus read in English:—

“ Grocers' Hall was once the mansion-house of the Lord  
 “ Fitzwalter, a peer of this realm, of whom the Company  
 “ purchased the same, in the reign of King Henry VI.,  
 “ being situate in the centre of the City of London, and  
 “ having a fair open garden behind for air and diversion;  
 “ and before it, within the gate, a large court-yard for  
 “ the reception of coaches, as the Aldermen and Sheriffs  
 “ attend the Lord Mayor on public affairs, especially from  
 “ Guildhall, and the sessions at the Old Bailey; or as the  
 “ nobility, and other persons of quality, shall either pay  
 “ their visits, or be thither invited by his lordship. For  
 “ these reasons, the Company of Grocers, after the late  
 “ dreadful fire, rebuilt and enlarged it with all offices and  
 “ accommodations, far beyond any other place that ever  
 “ was, or now is, for the most commodious seat of the  
 “ chief magistrate, as he is, for the time being, his Ma-

“ jesty’s representative in this famous city, at the expense  
 “ of many thousand pounds, as designing it for encourage-  
 “ ment of their members, and conveniency of the citizens  
 “ resorting thither, as to the fountain of justice, from all  
 “ parts of the City ; as it may, also, redound to the honour  
 “ of the kingdom, being conspicuous (in their transient  
 “ view), to ambassadors and foreigners, as well as natives  
 “ of His Majesty’s dominions, passing and repassing  
 “ through this City.

“ And as this Society may boast of its antiquity, de-  
 “ riving its original from merchants in Rome trading in  
 “ spices to the Eastern parts, who from Rome transplanted  
 “ themselves to this City with the conquest of this island,  
 “ and first gave wings to navigation here, from whence  
 “ this island hath been able to give law by sea to all the  
 “ world ; so hath it (above all other Companies in London)  
 “ abounded in wealthy members, trading both at home  
 “ and abroad, from whence have sprung many honourable  
 “ families, being incorporate by the name of Four Wardens,  
 “ as superintendents, without a Master, and so most ca-  
 “ pable of adoption by a crowned head: King Charles the  
 “ Second, of blessed memory, having been their last  
 “ Sovereign Master ; and, as other Companies have done,  
 “ in memory of the King from whom they have received  
 “ the like honour, so this Company hath set up his said  
 “ late Majesty’s statue in the Royal Exchange, and re-  
 “ corded his sacred name here in their register, that so  
 “ the generations to come may know how far they are  
 “ debtors to his memory for the foundation he laid, whereon  
 “ his royal Successors might build, to carry on and com-  
 “ plete their happiness, in restoring and settling so pious a  
 “ nursery of charities, and fruitful seminary of eminent  
 “ merchants and good citizens.

“ God save the King and Queen.”

One of the first acts of the Court of Assistants, after the accession of King William and Queen Mary, was to obtain from their Majesties a new charter, which fully confirmed and established the privileges and advantages contained in

1690.  
Charter  
and Bye-  
laws of  
William  
and Mary.

the last one of James II. and which added to the *mystery of Grocery* all persons following the trade of Sugar-bakers. “ Our bye-laws,” says Ravenhill, “ by learned counsel, “ were settled, and again perused, examined, and ap-“ proved of, as the law directs, by the right honourable “ the Lords Commissioners for custody of the great seal, “ and the two Lord Chief Justices, Sir John Holt and Sir “ Henry Pollexfen, pursuant to our late charter so en-“ larged, whereby our ancient usages and privileges, for “ well governing and ordering our members and mystery, “ are in every kind regulated, augmented, and supplied “ with addition of new, suited to all our defects.” This charter and these bye-laws, subsequently confirmed by Queen Anne in 1711, and by King George I. in 1722, are those by which the Company is at present governed.

Quarter-  
age.

Before I dismiss the subject of charters, I ought to mention that the Wardens were, by the authority contained in *all* their charters, empowered to levy on the members a small annual sum towards the charges and expenses of the Company, received four times in the year, and termed in the records *Quarterage*.\* The collection of it had been suspended after the fire of London, on account of the distress of the members until the year 1690, when it was again claimed, with seven years arrears. The Clerk and Beadles appear to have derived a portion of their salaries by charging a commission on the collection of this impost. It was finally abolished on the 11th July 1759, when the circumstances of the Company had assumed a decidedly favourable appearance, and an addition was made to the salaries of the Company’s officers, by way of compensation for the loss they sustained by the abolition.

1694.  
The Hall  
denised to  
the Bank  
of Eng-  
land.

Tranquillity and confidence having been restored after the accession of William and Mary, and the privileges and rights of corporate bodies firmly established by Parliament, the affairs of the Company began gradually to improve; and, for several years, no occurrence worth recording took

\* It was a mere trifle, amounting to a contribution of 1*s.* 6*d.* *per annum* from each member.

place. In the year 1694, as I have already stated,\* the Company entered into an agreement with the Directors of the Bank of England, to grant them, for a series of years, the use of the Hall for the conduct of the business of that corporation : this was renewed from time to time, until the year 1734, when the establishment finally removed to Threadneedle-street.

Although the Company's affairs had been for a considerable time in a state of progressive amendment, they had still some difficulties to combat in the year 1700, arising principally from the non-payment of monies due to them by the Irish Society and by the Vintners' Company. A committee was selected from the Court of Assistants to consider the matter, and, on the 22d March 1700, they reported as follows:—

1700.  
State of  
the Com-  
pany's  
Affairs.

“ We, whose names are here underwritten, having met  
 “ pursuant to an order of the Court of Assistants held,  
 “ on Wednesday the 10th May last, in order to inspect  
 “ and examine the state of this Company, as to the rents  
 “ and charities, do find the same to be as by the case  
 “ thereof hereunto annexed; and, upon reading a letter  
 “ from Mr. George Finch, the present tenant of this  
 “ Company's lands in the kingdom of Ireland, bearing  
 “ date the 7th day of February 1698, are of opinion, it  
 “ may be for the Company's advantage to treat with the  
 “ said Mr. Finch for an additional term to his lease in  
 “ being, upon his forthwith advancing a fine and a con-  
 “ siderable rent to the Company; all which we humbly  
 “ submit to the further consideration of the Court of  
 “ Assistants. Dated 9th March 1699.”

This is followed by the *Case* above alluded to, and which I insert *verbatim*:—

“ *The Company's Case as to their Revenues and Charities,*  
 “ *the 19th March 1699.*

“ The Company, in the year 1686, obtained a decree  
 “ from the Commissioners for charitable uses, for settling

\* See pages 37 to 39.

“ their estate, in trustees, for the due payment of their  
 “ charities for the future; and procured, from the said  
 “ Commissioners, twenty years’ time, from Midsummer  
 “ 1686, for the payment of all arrears of charities then due  
 “ from the Company.

*Per Annum.*

“ The charities due to the several persons and places “ respectively appointed to be paid by the donors’ “ wills, together with the interest of the mort- “ gage-money then charged on the Hall, “ amounts to .....	£	941	15	0
“ And the revenue then settled by the said decree, “ in which the Hall was charged at £200 per “ annum to discharge the same, amounted to no “ more than .....		877	16	8
“ So that the revenue fell short of discharging the “ charities and payments by .....	£	63	18	4
“ Which arrears of £63 : 18 : 4 per annum more “ than the revenue, for 13 years, to Midsummer “ 1699, amounts to .....		830	18	3
“ Lost by the Hall when unlet by the Mayoralty of “ Sir John Chapman, being half a year, £100, “ and in the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Pilking- “ ton, being two years, £400; in all .....		500	0	0
“ And by loss in payment of the Parish and Ward “ duties, repairs, King’s taxes, and other charges “ on the Hall, not allowed by the decree for 8 “ years, till let to the Bank of England .....		500	0	0
“ And by non-payment of the Irish revenue, pay- “ able from the City of London and Company of “ Vintners, to Midsummer 1699, charged in the “ said decree, at £100 per annum .....		905	0	0
“ Sum total .....	£	2735	18	3

“ This Account examined by us, the 19th March 1699;  
 “ THOMAS BOURNE, SAML. BREWSTER, JOHN OWEN.”

The recommendation of the Committee was considered and adopted, and the Irish estate let to Mr. Finch on lease for 61 years, at a fine of £1400, and a rent of £100 *per annum*; the former was, shortly after, apportioned in liquidation of the debts.

In the month of October 1769, a question arose respecting the Company's right to the third presentation to the rectory of Saint Mary-le-bow, in Cheapside. A case was submitted to the Solicitor-general, who decided in favour of the Grocers' Company, and the result was, that they inducted their candidate, the Rev. Mr. Sclater. I should not have alluded to this fact, did it not appear to me a matter of some interest, that the members of the Grocers' Company should be acquainted with the circumstances which obtained for them the privilege of every third presentation to this important benefice.

Simon Strete, by his will, dated the 14th March 1456, gave to the Grocers' Company, and their successors for ever, certain premises in Honey-lane, together with the right of presentation to the rectory of Allhallows, Honey-lane, chargeable with certain charities therein mentioned.\* As no vestige of this church remains, a brief account of it, extracted chiefly from *Newcourt's Ecclesiastical Parochial History of London*,† may not be uninteresting:—

“ This is a rectory and was a small parish church,  
 “ which stood in Cheap Ward, on the north side of Cheapside, in Honey-lane; a place not so called for the  
 “ sweetness thereof, being very narrow and somewhat  
 “ dark, but rather from the often washing to keep it  
 “ clean.” Newcourt then goes on to state that “ the  
 “ patronage of old was in the gift of private persons,  
 “ citizens of London, the last whereof was Thomas  
 “ Knolles, who, in 1399, was Mayor of London, and  
 “ being by Company a Grocer, *in all likelihood*, either  
 “ he or his heirs gave the advowson thereof to that

1769.  
Presentation  
to the  
Rectory of  
St. Mary-  
le-bow.

Allhal-  
lows, Ho-  
ney-lane.

\* The Company's Register of Grants and Wills.

† Edition 1708, p. 251.

“ Company: for it appears, by what follows, that it has  
 “ been in their patronage ever since the year 1471, and  
 “ probably for some years before.” Newcourt’s conjecture is completely set at rest by what I have stated at the commencement of this paragraph. “ This rectory,” continue he, “ is subject to the Archdeacon, saving only as  
 “ to wills and administrations, which belong to the Com-  
 “ missary.\*

“ Sir John Norman, draper, Mayor of London in  
 “ 1453, was buried in this church. He was son of John  
 “ Norman, of Banbury, in Oxfordshire, and was the first  
 “ Mayor that was rowed by water to Westminster to take  
 “ his oath; he caused a barge to be made at his own  
 “ charge, and every Company had small barges, well  
 “ decked and trimmed, to pass along with him; for joy  
 “ whereof the waterman made a song in praise of  
 “ him, beginning thus, *Row thy boat, Norman.*” This church was burned down by the great fire of London, and on the site, by act of parliament, was erected a part of Honey-lane-market.† This parish was, on the re-building of the city, united to those of St. Pancras Soper-lane, and St. Mary-le-Bow, and, by a decree then made, the presentation to the rectory was vested, in turn, in the Crown, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Grocers’ Company.‡

\* “ In 1636 the yearly profits of the church of Allhallows Honey-lane were returned as follows:—

“ Tythes .....	£	40	0	0
“ Casualtyes .....		4	0	0
“ Glebe .....		13	0	0
“ Tythes now of this parish, St. Mary-le-Bow and				
“ St. Pancras, as united, are yearly .....		200	0	0.”

Newcourt’s Ecclesiastical History, Sion College MS.

† When the market was built, the Company received from the City £120, in satisfaction for the parsonage house in Honey-lane, taken down for the new market.”

‡ The Company’s last presentation was in July 1796, when they displayed their good taste by inducting the Rev. William Van Mildert, now Bishop of Durham.

I have now to record a circumstance which, at the time, created very considerable excitement among the citizens of London, and, for a short period, placed the Grocers' Company in jeopardy. Political animosities and party feelings ran very high in the years 1768 and 1769: Mr. Wilkes engrossing, about this period, a great share of public and of parliamentary attention, and being supported by a strong party. He and his coadjutors were thoroughly skilled in the most effective modes of acquiring political notoriety, and encouraged and promoted the holding of public meetings, clubs, and associations, and of framing resolutions and issuing remonstrances and pamphlets. The public mind, thus stimulated, was in a state of ferment which had reached its height at the period when Lord North succeeded the Duke of Grafton as First Lord of his Majesty's Treasury; this was at the commencement of 1770; and, after the Corporation of London had presented a strong and somewhat intemperate petition to George III., who did not pay to that production the favourable attention which its authors had the presumption to expect. Thus disappointed, they determined to deliver to the King another paper, entitled, "The *humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London.*" In this application the citizens undertook to declare what they conceived to be the law of the land, and wherein it had been violated, and to prophesy that its violation would produce more ruinous consequences than the ship-money of Charles I. and the dispensing power of James II.; they declared the Parliament a non-entity, an illegal assembly, whose acts were not binding, and, therefore, could require no obedience. As a specimen of the terms in which the Corporation dictated to the Sovereign, and of the indecent license of the period, I will cite the concluding paragraph of this remonstrance:—"Since, therefore, the misdeeds of your Majesty's Ministers, in violating the freedom of election and depraving the noble constitution of Parliaments are notorious, as well as subversive of the fundamental laws

1770.  
Prosecu-  
tion of the  
Company  
by the Cor-  
poration of  
London.

Address  
and Re-  
mon-  
strance of  
the Citi-  
zens.

“ and liberties of this realm ; and since your Majesty, both  
 “ in honour and justice, is obliged inviolably to preserve  
 “ them, according to the oath made to God and your subjects  
 “ at the coronation ; we, your Majesty’s *remonstrants*, as-  
 “ sure ourselves that your Majesty will restore the constitu-  
 “ tional government and quiet of your people, by dissolving  
 “ this Parliament, and removing those evil Ministers for  
 “ ever from your councils.”\* The King’s reply was in  
 the tone of temperate but dignified and forcible reproof ;  
 it was couched in the following terms :—“ I shall always  
 “ be ready to receive the requests and to listen to the  
 “ complaints of my subjects ; but it gives me great concern  
 “ to find that any of them should have been so far misled  
 “ as to offer me an address and remonstrance, the contents  
 “ of which I cannot but consider as disrespectful to me,  
 “ injurious to my Parliament, and irreconcileable to the  
 “ principles of the Constitution. I have made the law of  
 “ the land the rule of my conduct, esteeming it my chief  
 “ glory to reign over a free people. With this view, I  
 “ have always been careful as well to execute faithfully  
 “ the trust reposed in me as to avoid even the appearance  
 “ of invading any of those powers which the Constitution  
 “ has placed in other hands. It is only by persevering in  
 “ such a conduct that I can either discharge my own duty  
 “ or secure to my subjects the free enjoyment of those  
 “ rights which my family were called to defend ; and,  
 “ while I act upon these principles, I shall have a right to  
 “ expect, and I am confident I shall continue to receive,  
 “ the steady and affectionate support of my people.”†

Conduct  
of the  
Company.

The proceedings of the Grocers’ Company, at this juncture, show them to have been loyal and faithful subjects, and opposed to the irreverent and factious pro-

\* I have called this the Address of the Corporation ; but I ought, in justice, to state that, at a Court of Aldermen, held at this period, sixteen of that body signed a protest, declaring that they were not assenting to, nor had signified their approbation of the said *Address, Remonstrance, and Petition*.

† Bisset’s History of the Reign of Geo. III. vol. ii.

ceedings of the Corporation of London: their conduct is thus recorded in their journals :—

“ The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor\* having issued  
 “ precepts for summoning the Livery of this City to meet  
 “ at Guildhall, on Tuesday, the 6th instant, to consider of  
 “ further application for redress of grievances, which gave  
 “ existence to a paper entitled, *The humble Address, Re-*  
*monstrance, and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Alder-*  
*men, and Livery of this City*, which was ordered, and  
 “ afterwards presented to His Majesty; the same was  
 “ taken into mature consideration, and, after great debate  
 “ of the matter, it was resolved upon the question, that  
 “ this Court entirely disapproves of the said paper, being  
 “ fully persuaded that His Majesty’s people, as well as his  
 “ Parliament, will reject with disdain every insidious sug-  
 “ gestion of those ill-desiguing men, who are, in reality,  
 “ undermining the public liberty, under the specious pre-  
 “ tence of zeal for its preservation, and, therefore, look  
 “ upon it as indecent and highly disrespectful to His Ma-  
 “ jesty’s person and dignity, injurious to the supreme  
 “ authority of Parliament assembled, and unwarrantable,  
 “ as it tends to subvert the happy constitution of this  
 “ kingdom.

“ Then it was resolved upon the question, and ordered  
 “ for the future, that no Warden of this Company do  
 “ summon the Livery thereof to attend at any meetings  
 “ in the Guildhall of this City, except for the purpose of  
 “ elections, without the express order of this Court.”

A few days after the passing of this resolution, namely, on the 9th of April 1770, the following precepts were received from the Lord Mayor, and submitted to a court specially summoned for the purpose :—

“ To the Masters and Wardens of }  
 “ the Company of Grocers. } By the Mayor.  
 “ These are to require you to cause all the Livery of

\* Alderman Beckford.

“ your Company to be summoned to meet at Guildhall, on  
 “ Thursday the 12th instant, at eleven o’clock in the fore-  
 “ noon, to receive the report of His Majesty’s answer to  
 “ their humble address, remonstrance, and petition, and  
 “ to take into consideration some late resolutions and  
 “ orders of the Courts of Assistants of the Companies of  
 “ Goldsmiths, Weavers, and Grocers. Hereof you are  
 “ not to fail. Dated the 9th day of April 1770.

“ HODGES.”

“ After consideration thereof, the Court is unanimously  
 “ of opinion that his lordship had no legal authority to  
 “ issue precepts for calling a Common Hall, to be held on  
 “ the 12th instant, for the purposes mentioned in the said  
 “ precept, particularly to that part which relates to the  
 “ resolutions of this Court; and, therefore, this Court does  
 “ determine and resolve not to summon the Livery of this  
 “ Company on that precept.”

The other precept is as follows :—

“ To the Master and Wardens of }  
 “ the Company of Grocers. } By the Mayor.

“ Having received information that certain orders and  
 “ resolutions have been lately made in your Company  
 “ which affect the rights and dignity of the City of Lon-  
 “ don ; these are, therefore, to require that you, forthwith,  
 “ transmit to me authentic copies of all orders and resolu-  
 “ tions made by your Company, and every part thereof,  
 “ during the month of March last past, together with the  
 “ names of the members present, distinguishing the office  
 “ they discharged. Hereof fail not, as you will answer the  
 “ contrary. Dated this 9th day of April 1770.

“ HODGES.”

“ After taking the same into consideration, the Court  
 “ was unanimous in opinion, that it becomes them, as a  
 “ Court of Assistants of the Grocers’ Company, to refuse

" his lordship's demands, contained in the said last precept; and the Clerk was ordered to wait on the Lord Mayor with a copy of the said precept, and this Court's determination thereon."

The other Companies who joined with the Grocers in making this noble stand against disaffection, were, as appears by the above precepts, the Goldsmiths' and the Weavers', and they passed resolutions of a similar tendency.

At the instigation of the Lord Mayor, and his party, a committee of the Livery\* was appointed to consider of the proper mode of proceeding against, what they termed, the *refractory* Companies, and to report their opinion thereon to the Common Council. A case was, accordingly, prepared and submitted to counsel, and it paved the way to the legal proceedings which had for object the disfranchisement of the three Companies.† Several informations, in the Lord Mayor's Court, were prepared and filed; but one only, against Mr. Alderman Plumbe, Master of the Goldsmiths' Company, was brought forward, the others waiting the event and issue of that. The case was tried, by a special jury, before Mr. Recorder Glyn, (who was one of the counsel that had signed the opinion,) and a verdict of *guilty* was given. A motion in arrest of judgment was made, on which the judgment was affirmed; but, a writ of error being brought, it was argued several times before the five judges assigned for that purpose, (which is a peculiar tribunal, in the nature of a court of error, in all matters decided in the Mayor's Court,‡) and the judgment of the Lord Mayor's Court was reversed, upon the grounds stated in the arguments delivered by the judges. The substance of these opinions is thus given in a periodical production of the period:—"Yesterday, Lord Chief Justice De

Decision of  
the May-  
or's Court.

Judgment  
reversed.

\* The Committee consisted of six Aldermen and twelve Common Councilmen.

† Deputy, afterwards Sir John, Hopkins, being Master at this time, the notice of action was served upon him.

‡ Payne's Treatise on Municipal Rights, page 105.

“ Grey, Lord Chief Justice Baron Smythe, Mr. Justice Aston, and Mr. Justice Ashurst, the Commissioners appointed to review the proceedings on an information of disfranchisement, filed by the Common Serjeant against Mr. Alderman Plumbe, met, according to adjournment, at Guildhall, and delivered their judgment, which was, that they were *unanimously* of opinion that the information was erroneous in many particulars, which they severally specified, and that Mr. Alderman Plumbe, by neglecting to summons the Livery of the Goldsmiths’ Company, of which he was Prime Warden, to attend Alderman Beckford, when Lord Mayor, at a Common Hall, had not been guilty of any offence against his oath and duty as a freeman; consequently, the judgment of disfranchisement pronounced against him, in the Mayor’s Court, by the Recorder, was, by them, reversed.”\*

Chief Justice De Grey’s opinion.

Lord Chief Justice De Grey’s opinion is so clear and luminous, that it merits to be here recorded. He observes, thus far we know, that the constitution of the City of London does not contain these Companies, I mean originally, and from their charters, and all prescriptive rights; it is by subsequent accident that they came now to bear the relation they do to their Companies as Livery. The Livery are not formed out of their corporate body; for whatever their constituent parts, their obligations, duties, powers, customs, and rights are, either as altogether, or as individuals, they are no part of the City customs or rights, but a subordinate, detached, and independent body; I mean independent with regard to the original constitution.

Now there is nothing in law more defined, or better understood, than the rules by which the powers of corporate bodies are to be exercised; and they have no power but under their charter, or by prescription, or, in some few instances, by act of parliament, or the general rules of law applied to them. They cannot go beyond

\* London Magazine for July 1775, page 376.

" their authority, and its incidental consequences, that is  
" most clear; and the governing power, whatever it is,  
" can no more impose demands beyond the constitutional  
" authority, than the governed can disobey any within it.  
" As the whole body must keep within the limits of its  
" authority, so must every derivative part of it; so must  
" the officer confine himself to his duty in the exercise of  
" the power given him; and the different parts of the  
" constitution, each having their peculiar department, all  
" must be subservient to the good of the whole. Now the  
" head can no more compel any particular part of the  
" corporation to meet, but for the purpose of doing such  
" business, which by the constitution belongs to such part,  
" than any other man. If such law is issued contrary to  
" the constitution of the City, as such, it is void; that is,  
" it can derive no authority from the constitution of the  
" City, or corporation, any more than it would from the  
" authority of a private man. It has been truly said, every  
" body has a right, by our constitution, to petition the  
" Sovereign. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen have a  
" right, as individuals, to petition the Sovereign; nay,  
" they may have a right, since they have now as a body  
" certain rights given them, particularly by the late act of  
" parliament giving the power of elections, they have  
" given to them by a legislative act, a certain right (I  
" do not know how to call it a corporate right, but a  
" certain right belonging to that meeting,) the right of  
" elections; and, therefore, I think a body might possibly  
" suppose a case, in which the Lord Mayor, Aldermen,  
" and Livery, as such, might have some business upon  
" which they might think proper to address the Crown;  
" and if they did so, if such precept was issued to the  
" Warden, it would be his duty to obey it; there it would  
" appear to be, I cannot say a corporate purpose, but a  
" legal business to be transacted legally; and if a Warden  
" was to disobey such an order as that, he would offend as  
" a Warden; there is no doubt about that; but the  
" question is, what is to be done where it appears the

“ subject of their meeting is not the particular business of  
“ that body, nor even the particular business of the City,  
“ but relates to supposed national grievances, which is the  
“ concern of the citizens, as subjects and Liverymen, as  
“ it concerns every body, to present a petition to the  
“ Sovereign ; but it has nothing to do with the corporate  
“ capacity of the City, and nothing to do with the collec-  
“ tive character of the Livery, but it might be a matter  
“ equally relative to the subject at large ; consequently, it  
“ is as clear as the sun, they could not meet upon this  
“ subject *corporaliter*.”\*

The determination of the judges thus completely negatived the opinion given by the Recorder and the other learned counsel, which in effect stated, “ that it was the “ duty of the Wardens of the *refractory* Companies to “ have executed the precept, and that by a wilful refusal “ on their parts they committed an offence punishable by “ disfranchisement,” their Lordships ruling, “ that Mr. “ Alderman Plumbe had not been guilty of any offence, “ either in his character of Warden of the Company, or “ of a freeman of London ; as well as, that the Livery “ could not either address, remonstrate, or petition as a “ corporate body.” It may thus be inferred from this decision, that as the Livery were not bound to attend the Common Hall for the purpose, so the Lord Mayor was not legally bound or required to call them together for such purpose ; and, therefore, that it was an improper interference with the general rights of citizens, and their ancient legislative body, the Court of Common Council.

No occurrence of public or private interest took place for more than twenty years ; the Company’s affairs proceeded smoothly, and nothing happened to vary the ordinary routine of business, which was limited to the management of the estates, and the distribution of the charities. As their circumstances improved, the disposition to do good increased ; and there is scarcely a charitable institu-

\* Payne’s Treatise on Municipal Rights.

tion in the metropolis whose records do not bear ample testimony to the generous liberality of the Grocers' Company. The Marine Society, in particular, which in itself unites objects at once benevolent and patriotic, received, for many years, sums varying from £50 to £500: the various hospitals and asylums for the relief of mental and bodily infirmities, were munificently assisted; nor was the Company's purse closed when the necessities of the state called for aid; in short, an example was afforded to the world at large of the most effectual and legitimate mode of applying the funds of a public Company.

In no instance did the Company's loyalty shine forth more brightly than at the period when an attempt was made, in 1792, to introduce into England the principles of the French Revolution. The association known by the appellation of the *Friends of the People*, and the *London Corresponding Society*, by their addresses and publications, infected a large portion of the middling classes with the revolutionary fever, which operated in the wildest and most extravagant ravings.\* Thomas Paine published the second part of his *Rights of Man*, in which he recommended the abolition of every establishment, and the levelling of all distinctions. He was seconded by a seditious paper, called *The Argus*, by the *Analytical Review*, and by innumerable democratical pamphlets; and the necessary consequence of this violent excitement was, to instil into the most industrious and useful classes of the state an eager desire to abandon their own course of beneficial and productive labour, and to take the management of public affairs into their own hands. At this crisis it became absolutely necessary that the Government should make some public demonstration to check the growing evil; and a proclamation was issued in May 1792, warning the people against inflammatory writings, and enjoining all magistrates to use their utmost efforts to discover the authors and publishers of such seditious works. A copy of the proclamation was after-

1792.  
French  
Revolution

\* Bisset's Reign of Geo. III. vol. v.

wards laid before parliament, and its merits discussed ; on which occasion his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, delivered his first speech in the House of Lords, in which he forcibly testified his intention of supporting the British constitution, in opposition to what his Royal Highness termed “the wild ideas of untried theory,” and concluded his memorable address with these words, “I exist by the “love, the friendship, and the benevolence of the people, “and their cause I will never forsake as long as I live.”

At this eventful period it became imperative on the advocates of the constitution, and the lovers of social order, to make some public demonstration of their sentiments, and to avow their determination to support the authority of the Crown ; particularly as the seditious practices before alluded to had produced, in various parts, such disorders as rendered the vigorous interference of the executive government necessary. The Grocers’ Company were among the foremost in the ranks of loyalty, and as their admirable and fearless address cannot be too generally known, I have extracted it from the books, with the preliminary observation which accompanies it.

1792.  
The Company's declaration of allegiance.

“ The Court of Assistants, after taking into consideration the necessity of a public declaration, to be made by the members of this Company, of their allegiance to His Majesty, and their firm attachment to our happy Constitution—adopted, unanimously, the following declaration, which was subscribed by the Wardens and Assistants, and inserted in the London Gazette and all the public papers.

“ We, the Wardens and Assistants of the mystery of Grocers of the City of London, whose names are hereunto subscribed, (observing with the most heartfelt concern the seditious, inflammatory, and fallacious opinions, which have been industriously propagated to introduce principles of anarchy incompatible with civil government,) think it a duty we owe to ourselves and our posterity, thus, publicly, to declare the most sincere and unshaken loyalty and attachment to our most Gracious Sovereign

“ and the happy constitution of this country, and our de-  
 “ termined resolution to support that glorious establishment  
 “ which breathes the spirit of liberty, cherishing the inestimable and sacred rights of universal security and protection to our persons and property, and diffusing the blessings of peace through every order of the community ; an example of happiness unknown to other nations, the birthright of an Englishman, for which our ancestors have so bravely struggled, and the greatest pride of a free and prosperous people.

(Signed)    “ THOMAS JACKSON,  
               “ WM. HOPKINS,  
               “ THOMAS HIGGINS,  
               “ JOHN DOD,

} Wardens.

“ And by the Court of Assistants and Livery.”

At the end of the year 1792, a considerable number of the most respectable merchants, bankers, and traders of the City of London united themselves into a body, termed *the London Association for Aiding the Civil Power*. They requested of the Company the loan of their Hall, and of the old Committee-room, for the purposes of holding their meetings and learning the military exercise. The readiness shewn by the Court of Assistants and Livery to forward the objects of the association produced the following vote of thanks, beautifully inscribed on vellum.

London Association.

### “ GROCERS’ HALL.

*December 24th 1792.*

“ At a General Meeting of the Members of the London Association, instituted the fourth day of December instant, for aiding the Civil Power, held here this day,

Vote of Thanks.

“ The Right Honourable Sir James Sanderson,  
       “ Lord Mayor, in the chair,

" Resolved unanimously,

" That the grateful thanks of this Association be given to the gentlemen who compose the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Grocers, for the very handsome manner in which they have been pleased to give permission for the Association to make use of their Hall for the purpose of learning the military exercise, thereby enabling the members to give effect to the principle of this Institution, that of protecting the persons and property of their fellow citizens, and preserving our happy Constitution, by strengthening the arm of the Civil power.

" JAMES SANDERSON, Chairman."

1793.  
King  
George  
III. and  
Mr. Pitt.

The firm and consistent conduct of His Majesty King George III., supported and guided by the talents of that lamented statesman, Mr. Pitt, gradually and successfully steered the state vessel through the shoals and breakers with which it was surrounded. Foes abroad and enemies at home had placed England in the most awful and critical position; but the firmness of purpose and the love of country, naturally inherent in the breasts of Englishmen, showed on this, as well as on former and subsequent occasions, that however the efforts of a few factious and disaffected individuals may, for a period, disturb the general tranquillity, the moment of real danger absorbs all party feelings, and produces an unity of action which is irresistible. Thus, the war which was commenced in 1793, was not the war of the Court, of the ministers, or of the privileged orders; it was a war of the great majority of the people of Britain. In declaring it against France in February 1793, his Britannic Majesty spoke the voice of the British nation.\* Its duration, as is well known to us all, was for a period of thirty years; the success was various, but its termination eminently glorious to the British nation, which, by its internal unanimity and by heavy

\* Bisset's Reign of George III. vol. v.

personal sacrifices, carried all Europe through a struggle which, on more occasions than one, had appeared hopeless.

As far as the Grocers' Company are concerned, I have now brought my labours to a close ; the journals, from the period I have last alluded to, presenting nothing worthy of record, which has not been noticed in that portion of my work which treats of the Hall. The task, although somewhat laborious, has been most gratifying, inasmuch as it has made me thoroughly conversant with the history and transactions of the ancient and venerable Corporation to which it is my pride to be attached. It has enabled me to see that the conduct pursued by the Company, through all times and in all circumstances, good and evil, has been consistent and highly honourable ; loyalty and good faith having been, from their earliest institution, their main springs of action. Constituted as the Company now are, the same principles will, I am persuaded, continue to actuate them ; and charity, attachment to the institutions of their country civil and religious, and brotherly love among themselves, be, to the end of time, their distinguishing features. For my own part, partaking most cordially in these sentiments, I cannot breathe a better and more appropriate prayer for the prosperity of the Society, than by fervently reciting the grace which is, on all festive occasions, pronounced at the Hall,—**GOD PRESERVE THE CHURCH, THE KING, AND THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GROCERS.**



# ILLUSTRIOS AND EMINENT MEMBERS

OF THE

## Grocers' Company.

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“ CLARORUM virorum facta moresque posteris tradere, antiquitus  
“ usitatum, ne nostris quidem temporibus, quanquam incuriosa suorum  
“ ætas omisit, quotiens magna aliqua ac nobilis virtus vicit ac super-  
“ gressa est vitium, parvis magnisque civitatibus commune, ignorantiam  
“ recti et invidiam.”

C. Cornelii Taciti *Agricola*.

“ BUT what doe I their names seeke to reherse,  
“ Which all the world have with their issue fild !  
“ How can they all in this so narrow verse  
“ Contayned be, and in small compasse hold ?  
“ Let them record them that are better skild,  
“ And know the moniments of passed time :  
“ Only what needeth shall be here fulfild.”

*Spenser's Faerie Queene*, Canto XI.



## Biography of Eminent Members.

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### ANDREW BOKEREL.

*Andrew Bokerel*, Pepperer, was Mayor of London in the reign of King Edward I. for seven consecutive years, namely, from 1231 to 1237. The traces of the *Bokerel* family, of which this distinguished citizen (the first noticed in the Civic annals as a Pepperer) was a member, are faint, and very widely scattered. The *Bokerels*, there is no doubt, came originally from Italy, where they were known by the name of *Boccherelli*, (a family whose descendants are still to be found at Pisa, in Tuscany,) as in the *Hundred-rolls*, or Inquisitions,\* of the second year of Edward I., *William Bokerel* is named, together with *Gregory de Rokesly*, the *Basings*, and divers other great city men of the time, as being one “among other *Lombards* of whose names the jury were ignorant;” it is further said, of the same William, “that he held the “fourth part of a knight’s fee, or about 170 acres of “land, in the manor of Chatham;”† and, moreover, that King Henry III., having extorted 1500 marks from the City of London, for suffering *William de Bokerel*, who had been sentenced to an exile of twenty years, to live in it, the Londoners offered to prove that the King had pardoned *Bokerel* long before: but the wily monarch, prepared with a subterfuge, replied, that *Bokerel* had been pardoned by him when he was in his minority, and, therefore, the pardon was not obligatory.‡

\* *Calend. Rotulm. Hundred*, No. 1, p. 415.

† *Ibid.* p. 222.

‡ *Northouck’s Hist. of London*, 1773, p. 46.

*Stephen Bokerel*, Sheriff of London with *Henry Cocham* in 1228, in the mayoralty of *Robert Duke*, was also of this family; a citizen, and, most probably, of the same trade as Andrew.\* In the return to an inquisition on a writ of *Quo Warranto* against him and *William de Hadstoke*, in which they are styled “Masters of the “Bridge of London,” in the 14th year of Edward I., respecting the repair and keeping up of the bridges in the county of Herts, the jury returned “that a certain tene-“ment therein described, and which was appropriated “towards such repairs, had come into the hands of the “said Stephen and William, as Sheriffs of London, and “had not been so applied;” and they, being summoned before the justices itinerant at St. Alban’s and not appearing, were ordered to be distrained upon.†

Of *Andrew Bokerel*, the chief of this family, the only mention made is in Stowe, and that is confined to registering his name in the roll of the Mayors of London. By that it appears that he first served the office of Sheriff for two successive years, *viz.* in 1223 and 1224, with *John Travers*, during the mayoralty of *Richard Benger*. He was Chief Magistrate, as before stated, from 1231 to 1237, and the following are the most remarkable events which took place in the City during his long mayoralty:—

In 1232, a fire broke out which destroyed a great part of the City; notwithstanding which, King Henry exacted from the citizens £20,000 to obtain his favour:‡ probably he had not forgotten the tumult at Westminster, three years before. This year, also, the King sent a precept to the Mayor, to summon all the citizens, who could bear arms, to assist in taking, alive or dead, the Chief Justice Hubert, from the sanctuary in Merton Abbey and in bringing him to London. The citizens joyfully assembled to the number of 20,000, resolving to execute the order

\* Strype’s Stowe, 1754, vol. ii. p. 213.

† Calend. Placita de Quo Warranto, 14 Ed. I. p. 286.

‡ Strype’s Stowe, 1754, vol. ii. p. 213.

without mercy ; but the difference between the King and the Chief Justice was afterwards accommodated.

In 1235, Walter le Bruin, the farrier, had a grant of a piece of ground to erect his forge upon, for which the quit-rent of counting the horse-shoes and hob-nails is still rendered by the Sheriffs, though the City at present has no claim to the ground.

In 1236, on the 14th of January, was solemnized, at Canterbury, with the utmost magnificence, the marriage of the King with Eleanor of Provence. On their way to London they were met by *Bokerel*, the Mayor, with the Aldermen and principal citizens, to the number of three hundred and sixty, riding upon stately horses, sumptuously accoutred, and each man carrying a gold or silver cup in his hand, in token of the Mayor's claim to the chief butlership. The streets of the City, through which the cavalcade passed, were adorned in the richest style, and the Mayor attended the Sovereigns to Westminster, and had the honour, according to custom, of officiating as butler at the Queen's coronation. At night, the City was brilliantly illuminated ; and this is thought to have been the most pompous show that ever was seen in London till that time.

This same year the foreign merchants, who were prohibited landing their goods in London, and had been compelled to sell them on ship-board, purchased the liberty of landing and housing them, for 50 marks per annum and a fine of £100, towards supplying the City with water from Tybourn.\*

### SIR JOHN DE GISORS.

The remote period at which the family of *Gisors* flourished renders it difficult to obtain accurate information

\* Northouck's Hist. of London, 1773, p. 43.

respecting them. As I find the name written *Gisorio* in some of the early records, it is probable that they were of Italian origin, and that they came to England with the Bokerels, the Basings, and other *Lombards* named in the Hundred-rolls, or Inquisitions taken in the reign of Edward I. Two of the family were Pepperers, and Mayors of London. The first of them mentioned by Stowe is *John Gisors*, Mayor of London in 1245, 1246, 1250, and 1259; the Sheriffs with him being, in 1245, *Robert of Cornhill* and *Adam Bewley*; in 1246, *Lawrence Frowicke*, Pepperer, and *Simon Fitz-Mary*; in 1250, *Humphrey Bat* and *William Fitz-Richard*; and, in 1259, *John Adrian* and *Robert of Cornhill*.

The printed calendars of the public records furnish us with a few additions to these meagre notices. Among the Patent-rolls, in the 37th year of Henry III., is one which empowers *John Gisors*, the King's Chamberlain of London, to regulate the price of wines; and, early in the reign of Edward the First, in the *Placita de Quo Warranto*, *John Gisors* is summoned to answer the King as to his making claim to tronage and poundage, in the town of St. Botolph Lincoln, without the King's license; he answered that he had such right (as John, the son of Nicholas, had before him) by grant from *John, Duke of Brittany*; and, thereupon, a day was assigned to hear the plea. In the same documents, *John Gisors*, as Mayor, in the 26th year of Henry III., is said, in conjunction with the Corporation, to have purchased of *Richard, Earl of Cornwall*, the King's brother, his fee-farm of Queenhithe, in Thames-street, with all rights, customs, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, for which they were to pay the said Earl a quit-rent of £50 per annum. This purchase was rendered valid by a charter of confirmation from King Henry, which may be seen at length in Maitland's History of London.

In 1245, an order was made, by the Mayor, that, in future, all houses should be covered either with slates or

tiles, instead of thatch, more especially those that stood together and in the principal streets which were then but few in number; for the heart of the City, where Cheapside is now situate, was an open space, called Crown-field, from the Crown inn, which stood at the east end of it.\*

In 1250 the King granted that the Mayor of London should be presented to the Barons of the Exchequer, and that they should admit him. Sir *John Gisors* was the first Mayor who had the honour of performing this ceremony.

He died in the reign of Edward II., when his son and heir, John, was called on to answer for his father, as King's Coroner of London.† By this *John Gisors* was built the noble mansion, in Basing-lane, called Gerrard's, or *Gisors' Hall*, of which there still remain the fine stone crypts, or vaults, now occupied by a wine-merchant. They are of considerable extent, divided into a double aisle by a row of columns, which support a series of pointed arches, and, by their solid construction, indicate the importance of the mansion of which they once formed a part.

Another Sir *John Gisors*, Mayor of London and Constable of the Tower, in 1311, and also a Pepperer, was grandson, as we may presume from the data, of the first John. He was one of the representatives of the City in the Parliament held at Westminster in the year 1315, and also resided in the mansion, in Basing-lane; but having assumed, in his magistracy, the illegal power of taxing the citizens, complaints of his conduct were made to the King, and he was obliged to abscond. Nothing more of him is known but that he died in 1329, and was buried in our Lady's Chapel, Christ Church, in the ward of Farringdon Within.

\* Stowe's Annals.

† *Placita de Quo Warranto*, 14 Ed. II. The original runs thus:—  
“Isti fuerunt Coronatores post ultimum iter, riz. Johēs de Gisors obiit per  
“quo. Johēs filius ejus et hæres respond.”

## SIR ALAN DE LA ZOUCHÉ.

*Sir Alan De la Zouche* is one of the earliest, as well as one of the most illustrious members attached to this Company. His descent was noble, as will be seen by the following extract:—

## ZOUCH OF ASHBY.

- 1st Baron—King Richard I. *William De la Zouche* descended from the Earls of Britanny, *obt. sine prole, 1199.*
- 2d Baron—King John. *Roger De la Zouche*, brother and heir, living in 1229.
- 3d Baron—King Henry III. *Alan De la Zouche*, son and heir, died in 1270. He was a Citizen and Pepperer, and twice Mayor of London, during the reign of Henry III. in the years 1267 and 1268.

This barony is now in abeyance between the descendants and representatives of Elene and Maud, daughters of *Alan De la Zouche*, grandson of the Alan above-mentioned; which grandson was baron by writ, from the 6th of February of the 27th year of Edward I. to the 26th of November of the 7th year of Edward II. The mode of Sir Alan's election to the office of Mayor seems to have been rather summary:—In 1627, a difference happened between the magistrates and the commonalty of London, respecting the election of a mayor; for which purpose a folk-mote being assembled, the aldermen and chief citizens declared for *Alan De la Zouche*, and the commons for *Thomas Fitz-Thomas*, who was at that time a state prisoner in Windsor Castle. *De la Zouche's* party, who feared this opposition, had previously engaged *Sir Robert Leydorne*, a bold and enterprising courtier, to come to their assistance. He accordingly repaired with his friends and followers to the place of election, and, falling furiously

upon the naked Commons, seized many of them and had them committed to prison. This put a stop to all further opposition, and *De la Zouche* was declared duly elected.\*

Burton, in his History of Leicestershire, speaking of Ashby De la Zouche, in that county, (" so called from " the Zouches, some time Lords thereof") mentions the " family of Zouche, as descended from Geffery, second " son of Alan Viscount de Rohan, in Little Brittaine in " France, by Constance, daughter and heiress of Conan " the Gross, Duke of Brittaine, by Maud his wife, natural " daughter of King Henry I."

Banks† says that *Alan De la Zouche*, in the 45th year of Henry III. obtained a charter for a weekly market at his manor of Ashby De la Zouche, and in the same year was constituted warden of all the King's forests south of Trent ; and soon after, a justice itinerant for the counties of Southampton, Bucks, and Northampton. Furthermore, he stood firm to King Henry in the contentions between him and his rebellious barons, whereby he was in such favour, that, in the 51st year of that King, he obtained the redemption of the Lordships of Tonge, in Salop, and of Ayleston, in the county of Leicester, for the benefit of his nieces Orabel and Margerie, daughters of William De Hancourt, who had forfeited the same for his adherence to the King's enemies.

This Alan‡ (as is reported by *Thomas Wilks*, canon of Ouseney, in his annals) having authority granted unto him by King Henry III , amongst other commissioners of the nobility, to convert certain persons to be examined upon several articles, but especially by what right and title they held their lands, *John Earl De Warrenne and Surrey* was summoned among the rest, who being demanded, by the said commissioners, by what title he held certain lands in his possession, suddenly drew out his sword and said,—

1267  
De la  
Zouche.

\* Fabian's Chronicle, p. 7.

† Extinct and Dormant Peerage, vol. ii. p. 617.

‡ Nichol's History of Leicester, vol. iii. p. 565.

1268.

“ by this my grandfather held his lands, and with this will  
 “ I keep them ;” and, being reproved by the said *Alan De la Zouche* for this his misdemeanour, after some interchange of words passed between them, he made an assault upon the said Alan, and sore wounded him, as he sat in Westminster Hall, of which wound he soon after died.\* These circumstances are also related by several of our historians, but “ in this, says Dugdale, they are mistaken, he “ being only wounded, as was also Roger his son, (at “ the same time with him,) as appears by the inquisition “ taken after his death, which shews that he died nearly “ two years after, being then seized of the manor of “ North Multon, in Devonshire, and also of the manor of “ Ashby De la Zouche, in Leicestershire, held of the heir “ of the Earl of Winton, by the service of a knight’s fee,  
 “ and that Roger De la Zouche his son and heir was “ twenty-eight years old.” It appears also that the *Earl de Warrene* entered into a recognizance upon forfeiture of all his lands and goods to Edward the King’s son, to stand to the doom of the King’s Court, for the trespass done to Sir *Alan De la Zouche*, and Roger his son, in Westminster Hall.

### HAMMOND CHIKWELL.

*Hammond Chikwell*, Pepperer, was six times Mayor of London, during the reign of Edward II.; namely in the years 1319, 1321, 1322, 1324, 1325, and finally in 1327. The periods at which he presided over the City, as its chief magistrate, were stormy and tumultuous, and he appears, by his activity and decision, to have effectually maintained order and tranquillity, and, thereby, secured to himself the approbation of his fellow citizens. In 1321, the parliament assembled in London, for the purpose of impeaching those two unworthy favourites of Edward II.

\* Matthew of Westminster. *Flores Historiarum*, lib. ii. p. 165.

the *Spencers*; and the nobility, coming to town attended by great numbers of armed men, who, together, composed a considerable army, took up their quarters in the suburbs of the City. Such dangerous neighbours obliged the civic authorities to take precautions for their safety, and the Mayor appointed a guard of a thousand citizens, completely armed, to be stationed at the gates and other places of the City, from four in the morning till six in the evening; these were relieved by a night watch, and two aldermen, attended by proper officers, patrolled the streets during the night.\* These precautions, however, were unavailing, for the King, unable to oppose the haughty barons, gave them leave to enter his capital with their whole army, and could not get clear of their threats until he had ratified an Act of Parliament for the banishment of the Spencers, father and son.†

*Chikwell's* devotion to the Court displayed itself by an act, which even the unbridled license of the times cannot justify: it is thus related in a tract entitled, *the History of the Most Unfortunate Prince, King Edward II.*‡ “The queen, being informed that the King had forsaken his royal chamber, and had stolen a flight to Bristol, she soon apprehends and lays hold of the advantage, addressing a fair but mandatory letter to the Mayor to keep the City to the use of her and her son, that was like to be his sovereign. The inconstant citizens, that ever cleave to the stronger party, are easily persuaded and entreated. *Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter*, that foresaw and feared the danger, summoned the Mayor to surrender him the keys of the gates for his assurance. *Chikwell*, that was then Mayor, incensed with the imperiousness and injustice of this demand, apprehends this inconsiderate Bishop, and, without respect to his place or dignity, makes his head the sacrifice to appease the angry Com-

\* Maitland's History of London, vol. i. p. 118.

† Thomas Walm's History of England.

‡ Harleian Miscellany, vol. i.

“ mons. This act had engaged him too far to recoil ; he  
 “ must now wholly adhere to the Queen’s faction. Four  
 “ of the gravest and most substantial burghers are sent to  
 “ let her truly understand their devotion. They are gra-  
 “ ciously and lovingly received, and the Mayor has thanks  
 “ for his late bloody act, which was stiled an excellent  
 “ piece of justice.”\*

Edward II. was imprisoned at Kenilworth, in 1327 ; the Spencers were executed, and Queen Isabel and her son joyfully received in London.

*Chikwell* died in 1328, and was buried in St. Paul’s Cathedral, “ in the north west walk, against the choir.”†

### ANDREW AUBERY.

*Andrew Aubery*, Pepperer, was thrice Mayor of London, in the reign of Edward III., namely, in 1339, 1340, and 1351, and one of the burgesses for the City, in the Parliament held in 1337. He appears to have enjoyed, to an extraordinary degree, the confidence of his sovereign and the esteem of the fellow citizens. The former he, no doubt, obtained in consequence of the zeal and firmness which he displayed in the preservation of the peace and good order of the City during the three years that he was its chief magistrate. The King, having resolved to go abroad in 1399,‡ granted a commission to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of London, for the conservation of the peace in the City during his absence, and invested them with power to cause due and speedy punishment to be done upon any malefactors and disturbers of the peace in the said City.§ Soon after the King’s departure, a contest arose between the Companies of the

\* The bishop was seized near the north door of St. Paul’s, and executed in Cheapside.—*Maitland*.

† Stowe’s *Survaeie of London*.

‡ Rymer’s *Fœdera*.

§ *Maitland’s History of London*.

**Skinner**s and **Fishmonger**s, which terminated in a bloody skirmish in the streets. The Mayor, with his officers, hastened to the place of riot, and apprehended several of the disturbers of the peace, as required by his office and duty; but *Thomas Haunsart* and *John le Bruere*, with some of their accomplices, resisted the power of the magistrates, and not only rescued the malefactors, but Thomas, with a drawn sword, violently assaulted *Andrew Aubery*, the Mayor, and endeavoured to overthrow him; and, in the meanwhile, the said John grievously wounded one of the city officers. They were, after a struggle, secured, and conveyed without delay to the Guildhall, where they were indicted and tried before the Mayor and Aldermen: having severally pleaded guilty, they were condemned to die, and being forthwith conveyed to West Chepe, or Cheapside, were there beheaded. This severity of the Mayor was so well timed for the preservation of peace within the City, and for preventing the riots and outrages, so frequent in those days, that it gave great satisfaction to the King, who, with his own hand, on the fourth of June, at the Tower, signed the following patent in justification and commendation of what had been done:—

“ We considering, if so great rashness of the foresaid  
 “ Thomas and John had been passed over unpunished, it  
 “ had yielded boldness to others of doing the like things,  
 “ and so thinking the said punishment very seasonable for  
 “ the conservation of our peace, and to be well done; and  
 “ willing, by the consideration aforesaid, that the Mayor,  
 “ Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Commonalty be secure; and to  
 “ provide that they be not troubled by reason hereof in  
 “ future times, what hath been done by the Mayor,  
 “ Sheriffs, &c. as much as belongs to us, we approve and  
 “ confirm. So that they may not hereafter be sued,  
 “ either by ourselves, our heirs, successors, or our justices,  
 “ on occasion of these deaths.”—“ *Teste Rege, apud Tur-*  
*“ rim. Lond. 4 June.”\**

\* Record in the Tower.

Aubery appears, also, to have been very popular with the foreign merchants established in the City, for they raised, among themselves, a contribution, amounting to fifty marks, which they gave towards the support of his Mayoralty.

### SIR NICHOLAS BREMBER.

“ Sotto un crudel impero  
“ Troppo mai non si tace. Un sogno, un ombra  
“ Passa per fallo e si punisce.”

*Metastasio. Il Ciro, Act 2.*

Of the family of *Sir Nicholas Brember*, I have been able to discover nothing; but, that he was a man of great consequence in his time is certain, for he took a conspicuous part in the troubles which shook this kingdom to the centre, in the reign of Richard II. He was four times Mayor of London, namely in 1377, 1383, 1384, and 1385; and Member of Parliament for the City, in 1382. He received the honour of knighthood from the hand of King Richard II., at the same time with the celebrated Sir William Walworth.\*

The assertion so frequently made respecting the partiality of historians in narrating facts connected with eminent persons, and colouring them according to their own political prejudices, is particularly borne out in the case of *Sir Nicholas Brember*. Maitland† calls him “ a perfidious and cruel man,” and “ one of the wicked favourites of Richard,” while Pennant‡ styles him “ the stout Mayor who suffered for his attachment to his royal master,” and Hume,§ who, in feeling and indignant terms, alludes to the mockery of the trial at which he was condemned, considers him as one of those, who was treated by the faction of the ambitious Duke of Gloucester “ without any

\* Stowe's *Survaie*. Edition 1633, p. 557.

† *History of London*, vol. i. p. 179.

‡ *Account of London*.

§ *History of England*, vol. iii.

" regard to reason, justice, or humanity." Grafton in his Chronicle, mentions him as " a worthie and puissant man " of the City, which was the King's draper, called " *Nicholas Brember*." It is not my intention to make any attempt to reconcile these contradictions ; I will, therefore, content myself with giving a brief narrative of the events in which Sir Richard was concerned, and leave my readers to draw their own conclusions, entreating them, at the same time, to bear in mind, that he lived at a period when " the laws were so feebly executed that no subject " could trust to their protection,"\* when men openly associated themselves under the banner of one or other of the great political parties of the day, which parties were considered legitimate in proportion to the success they obtained. This was particularly observable in the following reign, when Henry IV. patched up his title to the crown in the best manner he could, and became the lawful sovereign of England, with no ground of right but his present possession.

" *Ille crucem sceleris pretium tulit, hic diadema.*"†

The first remarkable event which occurred in 1377, was a dangerous riot, occasioned by the conduct of the *Lord Piercy*, Marshal of England, who committed a citizen of London to his prison of the Marshalsea, contrary to the rights and immunities of the City. The Mayor and Common Council assembled to deliberate upon the affair ; but, in the meanwhile, the populace, having learned that one of their fellow citizens was in duress, and, being instigated by the *Lord Fitzwalter*, the City standard-bearer, broke open the Marshalsea, liberated the prisoner, and spoiled the Marshal's house ; they then ran to the Savoy, a palace inhabited, at that time, by the King's son, the *Duke of Lancaster*, to attack it. They had a grudge against him, on account of his having endeavoured, in parliament, to abridge the liberties of the City, by having the office of

\* Hume, vol. ii. page 62.

† Juvenal.

Mayor abolished, and a *Custos*, as in ancient times, set over it, and also by giving the Marshal liberty of arrest therein. The Duke, having notice of their approach, escaped, but a priest was murdered by the mob, under the idea that he was *Lord Piercey*, in disguise.\*

The Mayor and Commonalty, apprehensive that a storm would burst upon the City in consequence of these events, sent a deputation of their principal citizens to deprecate the King's wrath. They produced a momentary impression upon the royal mind; but the lower orders, whose dislike of the Duke of Lancaster was unconquerable, continuing to insult him by means of lampoons and pasquinades, the Mayor and Aldermen were summoned to attend the King at Sheen, for the purpose of apologising to the Duke in the City's name. They entreated the King not to permit the innocent to suffer for the guilty, and offered to use every exertion to discover and bring to punishment the delinquents, but they declined the apology: the result was, that *Adam Staple*, the Mayor, and several of the Aldermen, were dismissed from their offices, and others, by the King's writ, appointed in their places. *Sir Nicholas Brember* was then named Mayor.

A few weeks after this event, Richard II. ascended the throne, and Sir Richard, with the assistance of Parliament, succeeded in obtaining a confirmation of the City's charter and the King's interference for the accommodation of the dispute with the Duke of Lancaster, which was brought about without any compromise of dignity on either part.

In 1383, the second year of *Brember's* mayoralty, the City charter received further confirmation and additions, as was announced to the citizens, in a remarkable proclamation, issued by Sir Richard, "on the Friday after the feast " of the B.V. Mary, and in the seventh year of the King."† Great and beneficial changes also took place in the Common Council, which, it was ordered, should consist of

\* Stowe's Annals.

† Maitland, vol. i.

"sufficient persons," four of whom, the Aldermen were ordained to cause to be chosen from each ward, in lieu of the ancient mode of taking them from certain mysteries or crafts. By means of *Sir Nicholas Brember*, most of the Aldermen were turned out by the Common Council, and new ones elected in the respective wards. The return of the Lord Mayor himself, for the ward of Bread-street, is thus recorded ;—“ *Bread Strete—Dominus Nicolas Brembre, Miles, electus est in Alderman. Wardæ prædictæ, per probos homines ejusdem Wardæ.*”

The maladministration of affairs by *De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk*, the Chancellor, and *Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland*, widened the breach which then existed between the King and his nobles. These favourites saw the impossibility of engrossing the royal favour during the life of the Duke of Gloucester, uncle to the King, and they entered into a conspiracy to kill him. *Sir Nicholas Brember* is said to have been concerned in it; and when the Duke, who secretly assembled his adherents at Hornsey, got possession of the King's person, *Suffolk, the Duke of Ireland, Tre-silian, and Brember*, were declared traitors and enemies to the state. A charge of thirty-nine articles was delivered in by the Duke and his friends; but, as none of the accused, except *Sir Nicholas*, was in custody, the rest were cited to appear,\* and, upon their absenting themselves, the House of Peers, after a very short interval, without hearing a witness, without examining a fact, or deliberating on one point of law, declared them guilty of high treason. *Sir Nicholas Brember*, who was produced in court, had the appearance, and but the appearance, of a trial: he denied the charges, and insisted, as a knight, on the privilege of defending himself by single combat, but this was refused to him.† His words, on this occasion, deserve to be recorded :—“ Whoever has branded me with this ignominious mark, with him I am ready to fight in the lists to

\* Hume, vol. ii.

† Malham's History of England, vol. i.

" maintain my innocence, whensoever the King shall appoint. And this he spoke with such a fury, that his eyes sparkled with rage, and he breathed as if an *Aetna* had laid hid in his breast, chusing rather to die gloriously in the field than disgracefully on a gibbet."\* The peers, though they were not, by law, his proper judges, pronounced, in a very summary manner, sentence of death upon him.† He was adjudged to be drawn and hanged, which sentence was accordingly executed upon him at Tyburn.‡ *Froissart* thus alludes to the death of *Sir Nicholas* :—“ His dethe was sore complayned of some men of London, for he hadde been Mayre of London before, and had well governed his offyce, and dyde one day great honour to the Kyng, whan he slewe, with his owne handes Lyster, whereby alle the rebelles were disconfited, and for that good servyce the Kyng made hym knyght.”§ He was afterwards buried in Christ Church, Newgate-street, where a monument was erected to his memory.

### SIR JOHN PHILPOT.

*Sir John Philpot* was born in Kent, at Upton-Court, in the parish of Sibbert's Wood; he was a Citizen and Grocer, and became Lord Mayor of London in 1378.

The following account of him, by *Fuller*,|| is quaintly and curiously worded, and I give it verbatim:—“ In the second of Richard the 2d. our English seas wanted scouring, over run with the rust of piracies, but chiefly with a canker fretting into them, one *John Mercer*, a Scot, with his fifteen Spanish ships, to represse whose insolence, our *Philpot*, on his own cost, set forth a fleet;

\* Harleian Miscellany.

† Maitland's History of London, vol. i.

‡ Stowe's Surveye.

§ The Chronicle of Froissart, vol. ii. p. 393.

|| Worthies of England, vol. i. fo. 509, art. Kent.

" a project more proportionable to the treasury of a  
" prince than the purse of a private subject. His success  
" was as happy as his undertaking honourable, and *Mercer*  
" brought his wares to a bad market, being taken with all  
" his ships, and rich plunder therein.

" Two years after, he conveyed an English army into  
" Brittaine in ships of his own hiring, and, with his own  
" money, released more than 1000 arms there, which the  
" sooldiers formerly engaged for their victuals. But this  
" industry of *Philpot* interpretatively taxed the laziness  
" of others; the nobility accusing him (drones account all  
" bees pragmatically) to the King for acting without a com-  
" mission. Yea, in that ungrateful age, under a child-  
" King, *pro tantorum sumptuum præmio veniam vix ob-*  
" *tinuit*; however, he who, whilst living, was the scourge  
" of the Scots, the fright of the French, the delight of the  
" Commons, the darling of the Merchants, and the hatred  
" of some envious Lords, was, at his death, lamented and  
" afterwards beloved of all, when his memory was restored  
" to its due esteem."

Another version of *Philpot's* courageous conduct, on this occasion, is as follows:—

" *John Mercer*, a merchant of Scotland, who used to  
" trade with France, and was in great favour with the  
" King of that country on account of his prudence and  
" good services, when returning home to Scotland, in the  
" year 1377, was driven by stress of weather, upon the  
" coast of England, seized, and confined in the Castle of  
" Scarburgh, till an order from Court effected his dis-  
" charge. His son, to revenge the injury, cruised before  
" Scarburgh, with a fleet composed of French, Scots, and  
" Spaniards, and took several vessels. *John Philpot*, an  
" opulent citizen of London, thereupon took upon himself  
" the protection of the trade of the kingdom, neglected by  
" the Duke of Lancaster, who, without the name of regent,  
" governed the kingdom in the minority of his nephew, and,  
" having hired a thousand armed men, sent them to sea in  
" search of *Mercer*, whom they took, together with his prizes,

“ and fifteen Spanish vessels, his consorts, all richly  
“ loaded.”\*

It should, however, be stated, in justice, that Richard II. as a reward for his services, gave him an estate of £40 per annum. †

*Sir John Philpot* was, likewise, an honest and independent Member of Parliament; for, about the year 1377, ‡ when a bill was brought in, in the name of the King, by means of the offended Duke of Lancaster, that the City should be no more governed by a Mayor, but by a *Custos*, as in times before, and that the Marshall of England, who was then *Lord Percie*, should have all the power of making arrests within the City, with other petitions tending to the like derogation of the liberties of the City, he stood up and said, Such a matter was never heard of before, and that the Mayor of London would never suffer any such arrest to be brought into the City; with more such words of the like stoutness.”

*Sir John Philpot* had a handsome residence in Langbourne Ward, upon the site of the present Philpot-lane, which was named after him. He departed this life in 1384, and was buried in Christ Church, Newgate-street, together with the Lady Jane Stamford, his wife. §

### JOHN CHURCHMAN.

*John Churchman*, Grocer, served the office of Sheriff in 1385, during the mayoralty of *Sir Nicholas Brember*, and to him the trade of London is indebted for the establishment of the first Custom-house. Whether that fact is of itself sufficient to justify his being handed down to posterity, as a favourer and supporter of commerce, is a question which I shall not attempt to decide; but his claims to

\* Macpherson's Annals of Commerce, vol. i. page 587.

† Speed.

‡ Strype.

§ Stowe's Survaie.

the remembrance of the Company rest on a different basis. It is to him, undoubtedly, that the Grocers are indebted for the management of the Weighhouse and the King's Beam, which were entrusted to them, and from which, for many years, they derived both emolument and patronage. I conjecture this from the following passage in Strype:\*

" I read that, in the 6th year of Richard II. *John Churchman*, Grocer, for the quiet of merchants, did newly build a certain house upon the key called Woolwharf, in Tower-Street-Ward, Allhallows Barking parish, betwixt the tenement of *Paul Salisbury* on the east part, and the lane called the Watergate, on the west, to serve for troynage,† or weighing of wools, in the port of London; whereupon the King granted that, during the life of the aforesaid John, the said troynage should be held and kept in the same house, with easements there for *the beames and weights*, and a convenient place for the customer, comptrollers, clerks, and other officers of the said troynage, together with ingress and egress to and from the same, even as was had in other places where the said troynage was wont to be kept, and that the King should pay yearly to the said John, during his life, 40 shillings, at Easter and Michaelmas, by even portions, by the hands of his Customer, or farmer of the Customs, without any other payment to the said John, as in the said indenture more at large thereof appeareth." It is more than probable that Churchman, being unable of himself to control and manage so considerable a concern as the public scale, was induced to obtain the assistance of the Company to which he belonged; and as this Company, at a period when commerce was restricted to few hands, was of the first importance in the port of London, the King must have found it highly advantageous to him to commit the management of the Weighhouse, and the appointment of the officers connected with it, to so influential a body.

\* Vol. i. p. 513.

† Before Churchman built the above, the tronage of wool was at Woolchurch-Haw, by Stock's Market.

The Court of Aldermen more than once laid claim to the management of the Weighhouse on the part of the City, and occasional discussions with the Company took place in consequence ; but the latter retained their influence until the privilege fell into desuetude, and the public scale gradually came into the hands of the government.

The general Weighhouse and King's Beam were in Cornhill, upon the site of the present Sun-Court, the houses in which are the property of the Grocers' Company.

### SIR THOMAS KNOLLES.

“ Though none of this family, says Dugdale, arrived to  
“ the honor of Peerage till the beginning of King James his  
“ reign, yet were some of them men of great note in their  
“ times, for *Robert Knolles* (ancestor of Sir Thomas), who  
“ was at first a person but of a low fortune, betaking  
“ himself to a military course of life, made such advantage  
“ by the troubles in Normandy and Brittany, that, in the  
“ 32d year of King Edward the Third, abounding with  
“ riches gotten by the wars, he became an eminent Com-  
“ mander in those parts. He was, thereupon, chosen  
“ by Prince Edward (commonly called the Black Prince)  
“ to accompany him into Spain, to the aid of Don Pedro,  
“ then King of Castile and Leon, against Henry the  
“ Bastard, son of King Alfonso.”

*Sir Thomas Knolles*, a member of the Grocers' Company, was twice Lord Mayor, namely, in 1399 and in 1410, and was, likewise, a benefactor to it. By his will, dated 12th July 1432, he bequeathed them a messuage in St. Antholin's, Budge-Row, “ for a pure and perpetual alms for  
“ the support and relief of the poor of the said Company.”

He re-edified, at his own cost, the said church of St. Antholin's, and was buried there. His son, Thomas Knolles, caused the following doggrel epitaph to be inscribed on his tomb :—

Here lyeth graven  
under this stone  
**THOMAS KNOWLES,**  
both flesh and bone,  
Grocer and Alderman  
yeeres forty,  
Sheriffe and twice  
Maior, truely ;  
And for he should  
not lye alone,  
Here lyeth with him  
his good wife Joane :  
They were together  
sixty yeere,  
And nineteen children  
they had in feere  
of God.

*William Knolles*, descended from the same common ancestor as Sir Thomas, was, by letters patent of the 13th May 1603, in the first year of King James the First, created a Baron of the Realm, by the title of *Lord Knolles*, of Grays, in the county of Oxon, first *Viscount Wallingford*, *Earl of Banbury*, in the county of Oxford, on the 18th of August 1626. This William died, without legitimate issue, in 1632, when all his honours became extinct.

This Earldom was claimed, in 1813,\* by General William Knolles, as heir male of Nicholas, son and heir of the Earl, of whose legitimacy there was much doubt; and the House of Lords decided, March the 9th 1813, that the petitioner had not made good his claim, and, consequently, established the illegitimacy of the said Nicholas.

## SIR ROBERT AND SIR THOMAS CHICHELEY.

Two individuals of this ancient family have been distinguished members of the Company; and the following is the best account I have been able to obtain of their origin:—

*Thomas Chichele* of Higham Ferrers, the father of *Henry Chichele*, Archbishop of Canterbury, was of low

\* Nicholas's Synopsis of the Peerage.

extraction and of mean station in life.\* He is commonly imagined to have been a tailor, and it is probable that this idea originated in the insult offered to his son, by one of the courtiers of Henry VI. who sent him a present of a rag pie, though there is nothing in the mode of relating the story which fixes upon the father the trade of a tailor.† In the older pedigrees, particularly that in the Harleian collection, some of his ancestors are mentioned as established at Higham Ferrers, though their rank and station in the world is not ascertained. *Dr. Hoveden*, (warden of All Souls, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth) who wrote the life of the founder, in Latin, says that he was “*honestis natus parentibus*,” which would imply that his parents were of some repute and credit, on account of their extraction.

*Thomas Chichele* married Agnes, the daughter of *William Pyncheon*, who is allowed in the pedigrees, to have been a gentleman, “as he hath coat-armour thus “blazon: Or, a bend, 3 plates, with a bordure counter-“changed azure and sable.”

*Thomas Chichele* died the 25th February 1400, as may be seen by the inscription on his tomb-stone, in the north aisle of the chancel at Higham Ferrers, known heretofore by the name of the Lady Chapel. He had, by his wife *Agnes Pyncheon*, three sons, Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury and founder of All Souls, Robert, and William, and a daughter whose name is not ascertained, and of whom we know no more, than that she married a gentleman of the name of *Tooke*.

\* *Stemmata Chicheleana.*

† “One of the courtiers in Henry the 6th's time, sent, by one of the King's Servants as from the King, a pye full of rags, as a present to Cardinal Chichele, as a scorn to his extraction, son of a broker or draper. The Cardinal received the messenger very civilly, desired him to present his duty to his Majesty, and give him many thanks for reminding him of a very worthy and affectionate parent; and to tell him that he should make it his constant prayer that his Majesty might as much out-go his father, Henry the 5th in all acts of prowess and virtue, as he had done his in honor and preferments.”—*Harl. MSS.* No. 991, fol. 27.

**Robert Chichele**, the second son of Thomas, was a Citizen and Grocer, and lived in the parish of Saint James Garlyke-Hythe, in the City of London. By his great application to business and industry, he became possessed of great wealth; and, by means of his fair character, attained great importance among his fellow-citizens. He was the intimate friend of *Sir Richard Whittington*, whom he emulated in knowledge of trade, as well as in acts of charity and munificence. He had an estate and residence at Romford, in Essex, where, in the year 1410, he contributed largely towards re-building the chapel (which was a chapel of ease to Hornchurch), and obtained for it, through his influence with the Warden and fellows of New College, who are the patrons, the privileges of sepulture and cemetery, for the parishioners who frequented that chapel.

In the year 1428, he gave to the parish of St. Stephen Walbrook, a plot of ground two hundred and eight feet and a half in length, and sixty-six feet in breadth, whereupon to build their church and for their churchyard. In the year following he laid the first stone of the new church, and gave one hundred pounds more towards the expense, and bore the charges of all the timber-work on the procession-way, as well as those of the lead upon it. In addition to many other charities, he gave, by his last will dated the 17th December 1438, several tenements in the parish of Saint Antholin, to the Master or Warden and the College of the Blessed Virgin, St. Thomas the Martyr, and Edward the Confessor, of Higham Ferrers, (which his brother, the Archbishop, had founded,) that the said Warden should pray for the souls of Thomas and Agnes, his father and mother; Elizabeth, Agnes, and Agnes, his wives; *William Chichele*,\* his brother, and Beatrice, his wife. It is said, by *Weever*, that he ordered by his testament, on his birth-day, a competent dinner to be provided for two thousand four hundred poor men, householders of the City of London, and every man to have two-pence in

\* Also a member of the Grocers' Company.

money, but the copy of his will in All Souls College does not notice this legacy.\*

He was Sheriff of London in the year 1403, Lord Mayor, for the first time, in 1411, and again in 1421, when he received the honour of Knighthood.†

*Sir Robert Chichele* died in 1440, and, if we may believe *Stowe*, and, if the positive directions in his will were observed, he was buried in the church of St. James, Garlyke-Hythe, of which he calls himself a parishioner: but *Weever*, by one of those errors in the arrangement of his collections to which he was occasionally liable, gives the following epitaph upon him, in black letter, as transcribed from the church of St. Mary Bothaw :—

“ ..... Chich.... vocitatus ..... Robertus,  
“ omni bonitate resertus, pauperibus largus, pius extitit ad  
“ mala tardus, moribus ornatus, jacet isthic intumulatus,  
“ corpore procerus, bis Maior et arte Grocerus, Anno milleno  
“ C quater, X quater anno. ....”

SIR THOMAS CHICHELEY, who descended in a right line from the said Sir Robert, was Master of the Ordnance, afterwards Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to King Charles the Second, and to King James the Second, and member of their Majesties' most honourable Privy Council. He was a Liveryman of this Company, and Master thereof in the years 1686 and 1687. After the church of St.

\* *Funa. Mon<sup>a</sup>.* p. 409.

† An entry occurs in the Company's books, during his mastership, shewing the authority which the law allowed them to exercise over those of their trade :—“ Ordered, that all the ginger, maces, and other wares, “ which are falsely coloured, shall be viewed by the Masters with one of “ the Mayor's servants, who shall search and overlook all goods of “ Grocers brought in the galleys as well as in the City of London;” and the same year, 1415, a barrel of maces, which were falsely coloured, was taken before William Walderne, Mayor, and his Aldermen, when they adjudged the merchant who owned the same to be bound in a fine of £1, not to sell, or cause to be sold, the said maces, in England, at any price. At the same time, also, certain other Groceries were condemned, and their sale prohibited.

Stephen's Walbrook was destroyed by the great fire of London in 1666, he laid the first stone of the new church, and was a liberal benefactor towards the cost of the re-building. He also built the Company a new barge at his own charge, and purchased for them the tenant right of a barge-house. In grateful remembrance whereof they caused his picture and an inscription to be set up in the Hall.

### SIR WILLIAM SEVENOKE.

“ I see lord mayor written on his forehead ;  
 “ The cap of maintenance and city sword,  
 “ Borne up in state before him.”

*Massinger. City Madam.*

About the latter end of King Edward the Third's reign, there was found, by *Sir William Rumpsted*, in the hollow of a tree, as some report, in the street of Sevenoke, a poor child, whose parents were unknown, and who, for that reason, was named after the place, where he was discovered, *William Sevenoke*.

This orphan was, by the assistance of Sir William and other charitable persons, brought up and put apprentice to *Hugh de Bois*,\* a citizen and Ferrer of London; and the term of his apprenticeship being expired, in the eighteenth year of King Richard II., he petitioned, as his master had used the trade or mystery of a *Grocer*, and not a Ferrer, to be admitted to the freedom of the Grocer's Company,† which was granted.

By degrees he accumulated wealth, and rose to be Lord Mayor of London; which office he served in 1418, the sixth year of King Henry V., and received the honour of Knighthood, then bearing for his arms—seven acorns, three, three, and one.‡

\* Lanb. Peramb. p. 574.

† Strype's Stowe's Survey, book v. p. 117.

‡ Ibid. p. 118.

At which time calling to mind the goodness of Almighty God, and the favour of his patron, *Sir William Rumpsted*, and the inhabitants of Sevenoke extended towards him, he determined to leave behind him a lasting memorial of his thankfulness; therefore, at his own cost and charge, he founded an hospital, consisting of certain Alms-houses for twenty poor people; and a Free-school for the education of youth, within that town; endowing them with a proper and sufficient maintenance.\* To effect which, he, by his last will and testament, dated July 14, 1432, devised all his lands and tenements, with other appurtenances, which he lately had by feoffment from *Margaret Walton* in Petty-Wales-Street, in the parish of All Saints Barking in London, to the rector, vicar, churchwardens, and other parishioners of the town of Sevenoke, for ever, upon trust, that they, out of the rents and profits of them, should find and maintain for ever, one master, well skilled in grammar, and a Bachelor of Arts, who should keep a *Grammar School*, in some convenient house within the said town, to be purchased with his goods, at the discretion of his executors; and likewise, out of the said rents and profits, for ever, to give and pay twenty poor men and women of the said parish, quarterly, ten shillings apiece, who should live within the said town, in houses to be purchased by his executors, and for other charitable purposes, in the said will mentioned.

After which, in the second year of Queen Elizabeth, through the care of *Sir Ralph Bosville, Knt.*, and several of the inhabitants there, not only the yearly stipends were much increased, but their former litigated possessions were settled and quietly established; the Queen's letters patent, dated July 1st, that year, having been procured, which

\* Sir William Sevenoke (or Sevenocks, as he is called in the Act of Parliament relating to his chantries,) served in Parliament for the City of London, in the time of King Henry V. He was, by his will, a benefactor to the parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-East, and, dying, was buried in the church of St. Martin Ludgate.—*Strype's Stowe's Survey*, Append. II. book ii. p. 47, book iii. p. 76.

directed, that “ there should be for ever in the town of “ Sevenokes, a free Grammar School, called the Grammar “ School of Queen Elizabeth, for the education, institution, “ and instruction of Children and Youth in Grammar and “ other learning: and that, in the parish of Sevenokes, “ there should be an Incorporation, to consist of the two “ wardens of the said parish and of the free-school, and “ of four assistants, inhabitants of the said town and parish, “ by the name of the wardens and four assistants of the “ town and parish of Sevenokes, and of the free-school “ of Queen Elizabeth, in Sevenocks.” All which was confirmed by an act passed in the 30th year of that reign, not only as to this school, but the said Incorporation was more firmly established as to the said hospital or alms-house, for the relief of the poor, which had been for many years in the said town and parish, at first erected by the said William Sevenokes, and endowed by his will; which endowment of both had been augmented afterwards by others.\*

The Lady Margaret, daughter of *Sir Ralph Bosville, Knt.*, before her death, which happened in 1692, settled a farm, called Hallywell-in-Burnham, in Essex, upon certain trustees and their heirs, for ever, to pay and dispose of the rents and profits, to the founding and endowment of two scholarships in Jesus' College, Cambridge, of £12 per annum each, the scholars to be called “ *Sir William Boswell's scholars,*” and to be chosen out of Sevenoke-

\* JOHN POTKINE, D.D. “ sometyme scholar” in this school, by his will, dated the 8th of April 1543, gave £9 per annum to the school, payable out of his capital house, called “ *The Sterre,* in Bred-streate,” in London.

ANTHONY POPE, Gent., by his will, dated the 19th of December 1571, gave a tenement in Petty Wales, within the Cittie of London, towards the “ meyntenance of God's glory, and the eruditione and bringinge up of the pore schollers of Sevenoke in vertuouse disciplyne, godly learninge, and good and civill manners.”

JOHN PETT, Gent., by deed, dated the 16th of September 1589, gave an annuity of £5, issuing out of his lands and tenements, called *Ryver-Hill,*” to the use of the poor of the almshouses of Sevenokes.

School ; and, for the want of lads fitting there, out of Tunbridge School ; and upon every vacancy, £3 a-piece to two of the fellows of Jesus' College, to come over to prove the capacity of the lads. She also left £12 yearly to a school-master, to instruct fifteen of the poorest children, born in this parish, in the Catechism of the Church of England, and to write and cast accounts ; and £18 per annum more, to be kept in public stock, to place those so taught, to handicraft trades or employments.

In the 8th year of King George I. 1722, the leases of the warehouses, which had been erected on part of the lands called "Wool Key," in the parish of All Saints Barking, devised for these charitable purposes, being expired, and the School and Almshouses being much out of repair ; and it being thought that it would prove of great advantage to the charity, if the Wardens and Assistants were enabled to raise by the disposal of those premises, a competent sum of money, to be employed in re-building, repairing, furnishing, and fitting up the Free-School and Almshouses, and in enlarging them, and for other charitable uses, appointed by the founder's will ; and, likewise, to obtain a settled revenue, for the support and maintenance of the said charities in future ; on a proposal made to the Wardens and Assistants, for the purchase of them for the use of Government, an act passed, to vest the fee of the above-mentioned wharf, quay, and premises, in trustees, for the use of the king, his heirs, and successors, for the use of the Crown, as lying contiguous to the Royal Custom-House, that they might be fitted up for warehouses, offices, and other conveniences for merchants, or the Commissioners and officers of the Customs ; and the king, to promote this so beneficial a charity, having agreed that £2,500 should be paid to the Wardens and Assistants, towards the re-building the school, almshouses, &c. that sum was confirmed to them by the act then passed. And the said wharf, quay, and other premises were made subject, by the said act, to a yearly rent of £550 to be paid, for the future, to the said Wardens and Assistants, and

their successors for ever, for the perpetual support and maintenance of the charitable uses, by the founder and all other benefactors, in time to come.

In pursuance of which, the present school-house was erected upon the old foundation in 1727; and the Hospital, or Almshouse, was completely repaired and fitted up.

There are six EXHIBITIONS belonging to this school; four of which are of £15 a-year, and are not confined to any college or either University.\*

The following poem is both curious and interesting; but whether that part of it which attributes the germ of *Sir William Sevenoke's* fortune to the purse given him after the Battle of Agincourt, by the Dauphin of France, is true, I have no means of knowing. The existence of the poem proves, at all events, that Sir William was a man of great celebrity in his time, and, therefore, I insert it.

In Johnson's "Nine Worthies of London," 4to. 1592, and re-printed in the Harleian Miscellany, 4to. London Edit. 1811, edited by Mr. Park, *Sir William Sevenoke*, who ranks as the third Worthy amongst the Nine, is thus noticed.

### SIR WILLIAM SEVENOAKE.

My harmlesse byrth, misfortune quite contempn'd,  
And from my pappe did make my youth a prey ;  
So scarcely budd, my branches were unstem'd,  
My byrth-howre was deathe's black and gloomie day :  
Had not the Highest stretched forth his might,  
The breake of day had beene the darkest night.

Some monster, that did envie Nature's worke,  
(When I was borne, in Kent,) did cast me forth,  
In desert wildes, where, though no beast did lurke  
To spoyl that life the heavens made for woorth :  
Under seaven oakes yet Mischief flung me downe,  
Where I was found, and brought unto a towne.

\* Hasted's Hist. Kent, v. i. p. 755. Carlisle's Endowed Grammar Schools, v. i. p. 616.

Behold an ebbe that never thought to flowe,  
 Behold a fall unlikelie to recover,  
 Behold a shrub, a weed that grew full lowe,  
 Behold a wren that never thought to hover;  
 Behold yet how the highest can command,  
 And make a sand foundation firmelie stand.

For when my infant's time induste more yeares,  
 After some education in the schoole,  
 And some discretion in my selfe appeares,  
 With labour to be taught in manuall toole,  
 To learne to live, to London thus being found,  
 Apprentice to a Grocer I was bound.

To please the honest care my master tooke,  
 I did refuse no toyle nor drudging Payne;  
 My hands no labour ever yet forsooke,  
 Whereby I might increase my master's gayne.  
 Thus Sevenoake liv'd, for so they calde my name,  
 Till Heaven did place me in a better frame.

In time, my prentise yeares were quite expir'de,  
 And then Bellona, in my homelie brest,  
 My countrie's honour with her flames had fir'de,  
 And for a souldier made my fortune prest.  
 Henry the Fift, my king, did warre with Fraunce;  
 Then I with him, his right to re-advance.

There did courageous men with love compare,  
 And strive, by armes, to get their prince renoune;  
 There sillie I, like thirsty soule did fare,  
 To drink their fill would venture for to drowne:  
 Then did the height of my inhaust desire  
 Graunt me a little leasure to aspire.

The Dolphyne,\* then, of France, a comelie knight,  
 Disguised, came, by chaunce, into a place,  
 Where I, well wearied with the heats of fight,  
 Had layd me downe, for warre had ceas'd his chace;  
 And, with reproachfull words, as "layzie swaine,"  
 He did salute me, ere I long had layne.

I, knowing that he was mine enemie,  
 A bragging Frenchman, (for we tearm'd them so,)  
 Ill brook'd the proud disgrace he gave to me,  
 And, therefore, lent the Dolphyne such a blowe  
 As warm'd his courage well to lay about,  
 Till he was breathlesse, though he were so stout.

\* Dauphin.

At last, the noble Prince did aske my name,  
 My birth, my calling, and my fortunes past ;  
 With admiration he did heare the same,  
 And so a bagge of crownes to me he cast ;  
 And when he went away, he saide to mee,  
 Sevenoake, be proud, the Dolphyne fought with thee !

When English had obtainde the victorie,  
 We crossed backe the grudginge seas againe,  
 Were all my friends supposed warre to be  
 For vice and follie, virtue's onlie bane :  
 But see the simple, how they are deceav'de,  
 To judge that horrour honnour hath bereav'd.

For, when my souldier's fame was laid aside,  
 To be a Grocer once againe I framde ;  
 And He which rules above my steps did guide,  
 That, through his wealth, Sevenoake in time was fam'de  
 To be Lord Maior of London by degree,  
 Where justice made me sway with equitie.

Gray haires made period unto honour's call,  
 And frostie Death had furrow'd in my face  
 Colde winter gashes, and to sommers fall,  
 And fainting Nature left my mortall place ;  
 For with the date of flesh my life decayde,  
 And Sevenoake died ; for every flower must fade.

By testament, in Kent, I built a towne,  
 And briefly called it Sevenoake from my name ;  
 A free-schoole to sweete learning, to renowne,  
 I plac'de for those that playde at honour's game ;  
 Both land and livinge to that towne I gave,  
 Before I tooke possession of my grave.

Thither I bare my flesh, but leave my fame,  
 To be a president for London wights ;  
 And you that now behold fair vertue's maime,  
 Thinke he is happie, for his countreye fights ;  
 For, for my guerdon to this pleasant field,  
 My carkas did my dying spirit yeeld.

### SIR JOHN DE WELLES.

*Sir John de Welles*, son of *John de Welles*, of the city of Norwich, was a Liveryman of the Company of Grocers,

Lord Mayor of London in 1431, in the 10th year of King Henry the Sixth, and representative for the City of London in four parliaments. The family of *De Welles* is of great antiquity, as may be seen in *Dugdale*, whose authority, however, does not clearly prove from which branch Sir John was descended. The principal estates of the family were in Lincolnshire; and it is certain that, from 1299 to 1421, one of the branches was possessed of a Barony by writ. *Leo de Welles*, the last who held the Barony, was slain in 1461; when, being attainted, his honours became forfeited. *Sir John de Welles*, according to Stowe, “ builded the Standard in Chepeside,” and was, also, a great benefactor to the new building of the chapel by Guildhall, which was pulled down, a few years ago, to make way for the new law courts. He, also, built, at his own cost, the south aisle of the choir of Saint Antholin’s church, “ which,” says the City Historian, “ by ‘ his picture, (strangely there found,) his motto, and ‘ armes, doth yet plainly appeare ;” and he left, by will, a sum of money to repair the highway leading from London to Westminster.\* This was substantially performed, under letters patent from the king, by his executors, Thomas Knowles and John Chichley.

### SIR STEPHEN BROWNE.

*Sir Stephen Browne*, son of *John Browne*, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was Lord Mayor of London in 1438, the 17th year of King Henry the Sixth, and Member of Parliament for the City in 1452. In his mayoralty, wheat was at the extraordinary price of three shillings the bushel, and, so great was the dearth, that bread was made of vetches, pease, beans, and fern-roots.† The famine was considerably alleviated by the conduct of Sir Stephen, who sent into Prussia, and caused to be brought from thence

\* Arnold's Chronicle.

† Strype.

certain ships laden with rye, which was a great relief in so extreme a necessity.

*Fuller's* account of this action of *Browne's* is so curious, and so quaintly worded, that I cannot refrain from inserting it *verbatim*. “ He was Lord Mayor of London in 1438, “ in which year happened a great and general famine, “ caused much by unseasonable weather, but more by “ some (huckstering) husbandmen, who properly may be “ termed *knaves in grain*, insomuch that wheat was sold “ for three shillings a bushel, (intollerable, according to “ the standard of those times,) and poor people were “ forced to make bread of fearn-roots. But this *Sir Stephen Browne*, sent certain ships to Danz, whose reasonable return with rye suddenly sunk grain to reasonable rates, whereby many a languishing life was preserved. “ He is beheld one of the first merchants who, in want of “ corn, shewed the Londoners the way to the barn-door, “ I mean into Spruseland, prompted by charity (not “ covetousness) to this his adventure. It may be said “ that, since his death, he has often relieved the city on the “ like occasion, because, as *Symmachus* well observeth, “ *Auctor est bonorum sequentium, qui bonum relinquit exemplum.*”\*

### SIR THOMAS CANNYNG.

“ The noble merchant  
“ Who, living, was for his integrity  
“ And upright dealing, (a rare miracle  
“ In a rich citizen,) London's best honour.”

*Massinger. City Madam.*

The family of *Cannyng*, or *Canning*, were originally of Bristol, and belonged to that class which has contributed so largely towards the splendour, the honour, and, it may be added, the respectability of the English nation.—They were Merchants.

*William Cannyng* was of distinguished eminence as a

\* *Worthies of England*, vol. ii. p. 192.

principal merchant and foreign trader, as the friend and patron of learning and religion, the able magistrate and charitable benefactor of his city, (*Bristol,*) the wealthy and the wise, (*sapientissimus et ditissimus*, says *William of Worcester,*) he was the second son of *John Cannyng*, Mayor of *Bristol* in 1392 and 1398, the son of *William Cannyng*, six times mayor, buried in St. Mary's Chapel, in the Church of St. Thomas.\*

*John Cannyng* inherited a considerable estate from his father, and pursued a mercantile life, increasing his fortune by marrying *Joan*, daughter and heiress of *John and Margaret Wotton*. He left his children, in money, £72 : 12 : 6 each, which at that period was esteemed a considerable sum, when wheat was 4d. per bushel, a fat ox sold for 5s. 4d. and a sheep for 16d.

*Thomas Cannyng*, who, at his father's decease, was ten years old, was sent to London, where he became a Grocer, and served the office of Lord Mayor in 1456; while *William*, his brother, who had remained in his native place, and had been bred up to merchandize, in which he was very successful, was chosen Mayor of *Bristol*; so that the first and second cities in the kingdom had two brothers for Mayors in the same year.

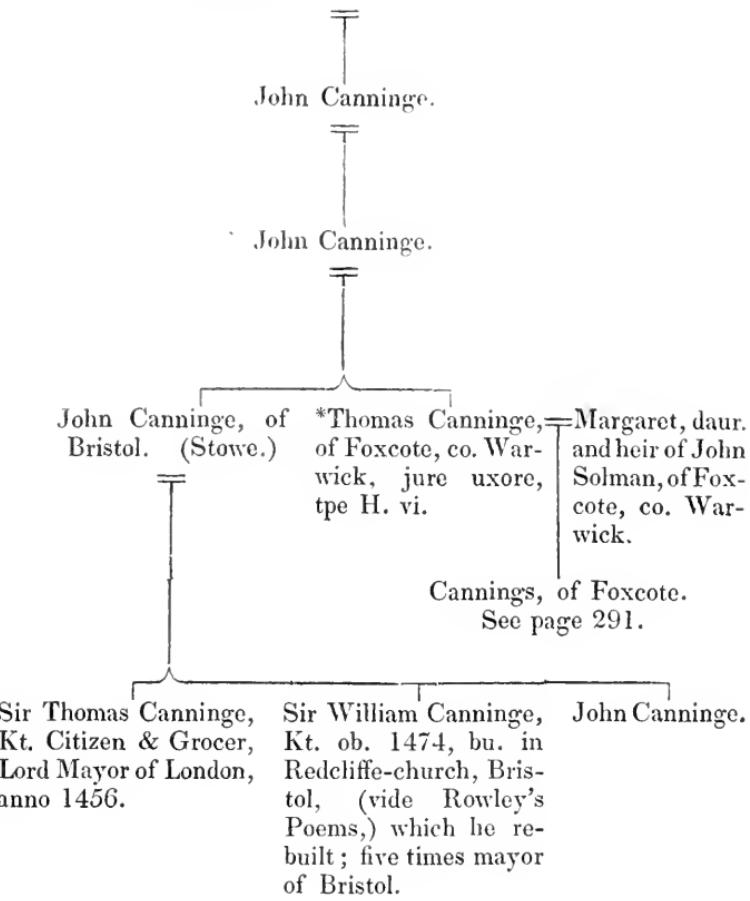
On reference to *Rymer's Fædera*,† I find two curious documents, which prove the estimation in which the *Cannings* of *Bristol* were held by their sovereign. They are in the form of recommendatory letters from King Henry the Sixth, in 1449; one to the Master-General of Prussia, and the other to the Magistrates of the City of *Dantzic*, both in behalf of two of *Cannyng's* factors, residing in *Prussia*; requesting all possible favour and countenance to be shown them. The king stiles *Cannyng* "his beloved, and an eminent merchant of his City of Bristol."

The following is a brief sketch of the pedigree of this family.

\* Barratt's History of Bristol. Corry's ditto.

† Vol. xi. p. 226.

WILLIAM CANNYNGE,  
six times mayor of Bristol,  
tpe E. iij.



\* From this THOMAS is descended the RIGHT HON. GEORGE CANNING, elected a Brother-Grocer in 1824. See account of his life, page 280. The pedigree of this family printed in Barratt's History of Bristol is incorrect.

The period of his Mayoralty was very tumultuous, riots taking place frequently. The most violent and dangerous of these was suppressed by *Sir Thomas Cannyngham*, whose firmness on the occasion merits to be recorded. In 1456, a simple and passionate young mercer, who had been denied the liberty, or had been punished, for wearing a dagger in Italy, contrary to the laws of that country, where he had resided for some time, being returned to this city, met an Italian in Cheapside with a dagger by his side, which so enraged him, that, without considering the different laws and customs of countries, he insolently told him that as the English were not allowed to wear swords in Italy, neither ought he to wear any weapon in England. The Italian, somewhat irritated at this manner of address, returned an answer not agreeable to the furious temper of the young censor, who not only snatched the stranger's dagger from his side, but broke his head with it.\* The injured foreigner applied to the Lord Mayor for redress, who, greatly concerned at the indignity offered to the stranger, summoned the mercer to appear and answer the complaint next day, at the Guildhall, before him and a full Court of Aldermen. They committed the aggressor to Newgate, he not being able to urge any thing in alleviation of his offence. But the servants of the Mercery way-laid them near the end of Lawrence-Lane, in Cheapside, and rescued the prisoner in a tumultuous manner; after which the baser sort of the populace, availing themselves of the confusion, rose in a body, and, running to the houses of the most eminent Italian merchants, pillaged them. The Mayor and Aldermen, assisted by a number of the principal citizens, seized upon divers of the ring-leaders, and committed them to Newgate. The tumult was not appeased without some bloodshed, and the offender, who contrived to escape, took sanctuary in St. Peter's, Westminster, till the affair was finally determined.† The

\* De Worde. Ad. Polychron. Maitland.

† Fabian's Chronicle.

Court were alarmed at the report of the riot, fearing it might prove the beginning of troubles against the State by the faction of the *Duke of York*. The Queen sent into the City the *Dukes of Exeter and Buckingham*, and others of the nobility, with a special commission to assist the Lord Mayor and Aldermen in the trial and punishment of the transgressors. But, while the Mayor, as chief judge, assisted in the Commission by the said nobles, was calling the panels of the inquest at Guildhall, the rabble assembled in greater numbers than before, and uttered loud threats of vengeance if the trial of their fellow-citizens was persisted in. The Commissioners were so alarmed at this, that they, without executing their Commission, hastily took leave of the Mayor and retired from the bench.

The Lord Mayor, wisely considering that if a stop were not suddenly put to the dangerous practices of the multitude, all government of the city would be at an end, summoned a Common Council, ordered all Wardens to assemble their fellowships in their respective Halls, and there to charge every member to keep and use the best endeavours to maintain the peace of the city ; and, if they should discover any persons favouring riotous assemblies, or the forcible delivery of persons committed to prison, they should, by gentle means, try to dissuade them, and give their names privately and expeditiously to the Mayor. By such excellent measures an effectual stop was put to the riot, the Commissioners returned to the city, and, in conjunction with the Mayor, tried and condemned divers persons. Three were afterwards hanged at Tyburn, and several others amerced in pecuniary mulcts.

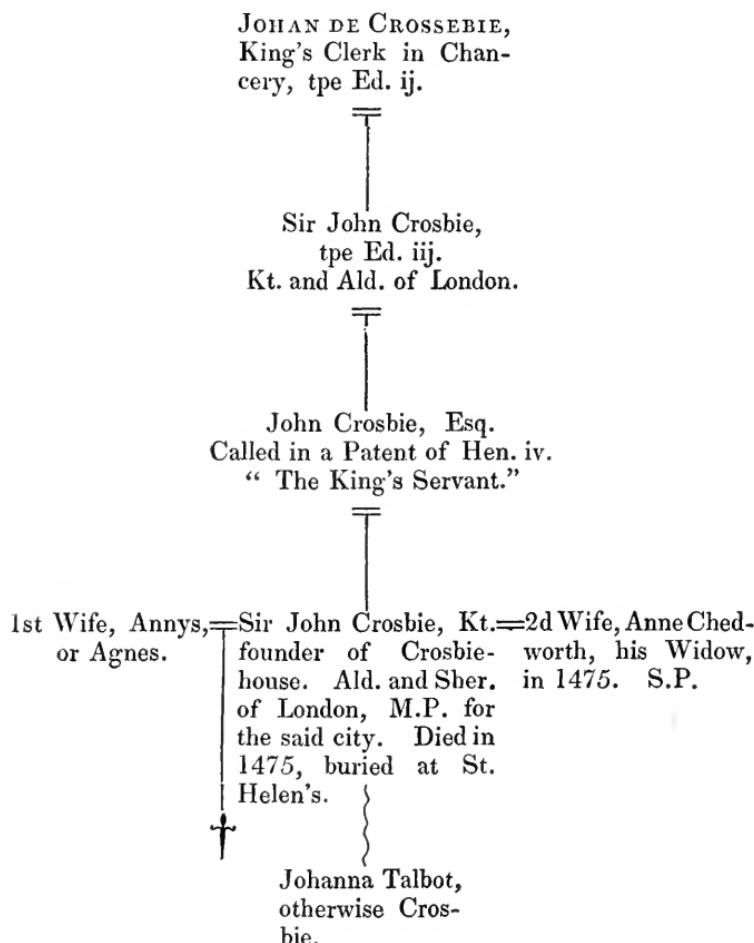
### SIR JOHN CROSBIE.

“ Happy were London, if, within her walls,  
“ She had many such rich men.”

*Massinger. City Madam.*

The Company of Grocers have reason to refer, with feelings of pride and satisfaction, to the name of *Sir John*

*Crosbie*, as to that of one of their most honourable members. Among the many eminent citizens of London, whose wealth and extensive dealings, when trade was in its infancy, contributed to lay the foundation of that commercial pre-eminence for which this kingdom is celebrated, was *Sir John Crosbie*. That his family was ancient and highly respectable is certain, although a silly tradition respecting him was current in the time of Stowe, who says, “ I have heard that he was named *Crosbie*, of being found ‘ by a cross.’ ” This absurdity is effectually negatived by the following pedigree :—



The first mention that occurs of *John Crosbie* in our records, is in the will of *Henry Lord Scrope, of Masham*, who was beheaded at Southampton, for being concerned, with *Richard Earl of Cambridge* and others, in the plot against Henry V., and who left him “a woollen gown with “out furs, and one hundred shillings.”\*

In the seventh year of Edward IV. we find *Sir John Crosbie* returned to parliament as representative for the City of London, together with *Ralph Jocelyn, Thomas Urswick*, Recorder, and *John Warde*. He was soon after elected an Alderman, served the office of Sheriff in 1470, and, finally, was promoted to the important post of Mayor of the Staple,† at Calais.

In 1470, also, he attained the honour of Knighthood, which was conferred upon himself and eleven others in the field, by King Edward the Fourth, for their fidelity and valour in resisting the attempts of the bastard *Falconbridge* to surprise the City.

In 1471, *Crosbie* was appointed one of the Commissioners to settle the differences with the *Duke of Burgundy*, and to treat with the Governors of the Hanse Towns.‡ He had previously served, on several occasions, the office of Warden of the Grocer's Company, to which he made some liberal bequests in his will.

*Stowe*, in describing the magnificent mansion in Bishopsgate-Street, known by the name of *Crosbie-House*, says, “ It was built by *Sir John Crosbie*, Grocer and Woolman, “ in the time of King Edward the Fourth, in place of “ certain tenements, devised to him by *Alice Ashfield* “ and the Convent of Saint Helen's, for 99 years ;—viz. “ from 1466 to 1565, and was finished in 1471. This “ house he builded of stone and timber, very large and

\* Rymer's *Fœdera*, ix. 278. Dugdale *Bare*. i. 660.

† “ The English word *staple* is, in the civil law Latin style of those times, termed *stabile emporium*, that is a fixed port or mart for the importing of merchandize. From whence, probably, the contracted word *staple*, used, with some small variation of orthography, all over Europe, has its derivation.”—Anderson's *History of Commerce*.

‡ Rymer's *Fœdera*, xi. 738.

“ beautiful, being esteemed, at that time, the highest in London. Sir John died in 1475: so short a space enjoyed he that sumptuous building.” The mansion is described as a residence fit for a prince; and, soon after its founder’s death, was actually inhabited by royalty itself, in the person of the *Duke of Gloucester*, Lord Protector, afterwards Richard the Third.

Although *Sir John Crosbie* inherited a liberal patrimony, he early embarked in trade, and, by his success, considerably augmented his wealth; the extent of his dealings is proved by his intimacy and connection with the *Frisco-baldi*, of Florence, who, with the *Medici*, were the great bankers and engrossers of the commerce of Europe.\*

Some notion may be formed of his property by the provisions made in his will, of which the following is an abstract. The will is dated March 1471, and was proved 6th February 1475. After bequeathing considerable sums to the nuns of St. Helen’s, Holiwell, Stratford and Sion, to the Augustin and Crutched Friars, the friars, minors, preachers, and carmelites, the Hospital of St. Mary without Bishopsgate, Bedlam, St. Thomas Southwark, Elsing and St. Bartholomew, the minoresses and the Charterhouse, and to the gaols of London and Southwark, for their prayers and relief, and instituting a solemn obiit anniversary, or *twelve months’ mind*, at which the Grocers’ Company were to assist, (and, after the decease of his wife and all his executors, they were to be the trustees for that purpose,) he gave to the repair of St. Helen’s Church five hundred marks; and his arms were to be seen in *Stowe’s* time, both in the stonework, timber, roof, and glazing; among poor housekeepers in Bishopsgate ward £30; to the repair of Hanworth Church, Middlesex (the manor of which belonged to him),†

\* See the letters of this family in the British Museum.

† Mr. Gough, who wrote a very brief memoir of *Sir John Crosbie*, is mistaken in his conjecture that Sir John purchased his manor of Hanworth, in consequence of having amassed a large fortune in trade. The manor and advowson of Hanworth, mentioned in an instrument of Edward the Black Prince, appear to have belonged to the Sir John who was Alderman of London, in the reign of Edward III. and were com-

£40; of Bishopsgate and London-Wall £100; towards making a new tower of stone at the south-east of London-bridge, if the same were begun by the Mayor and Aldermen, within ten years after his decease, £100; to the repair of Rochester-bridge £10; to every prison in London liberally. Also, he gave to the Wardens and Commonalty of the Grocers in London, two large pots of silver chased, parcel-gilt, weighing thirteen pounds five ounces, troy weight, to be used in their Common Hall.\* To his daughter Johanne two hundred marks; to his wife £2000, as her dower, besides all her and his clothes and furniture, and his lease under the Prioress of St. Helen's, for her life. The above sums were to be raised by sale of his manor at Hanworth, and other lands in Feltham in the same county, within two years after his decease; or, if there were a sufficiency without such sale, the estates to go to his wife, or the child she might chance to be great with at his death; or, in default thereof, to his daughter Joan and her heirs; failing these, to his cousin *Peter Christemas* and his heirs; and, in default thereof, to the Grocers' Company, to be sold, and the amount divided among themselves, and in charitable uses, as in his will specified. Our historians celebrate the liberality of this worthy citizen in these public repairs.† The residue of his effects, after the decease of his last wife being distributed agreeably to his will, one instance of this distribution remains to the church of Theydon Geron, in Essex, commemorated in the following inscription, in raised letters, on a stone in the south face of the steeple:—

“*Pray for the soules of Sir John Crosbie, Knyght, late  
Alderman and Grocere of London; and, alsoe, of Dame  
Ann, and Annys, his wyves, of whose godys was gervyn  
..... li toward the makyng of thys stepyll, ao V•..  
..... que d'ni, 1520.‡*

mitted to the trust of Thomas Rigby till the next John Crosbie, the heir and “King's servant,” attained his majority.—I. B. H.

\* Although there is a detailed list of the Company's plate in the records of that period I cannot find any trace of these “pots.” As articles of less value are carefully noted, these would hardly have been omitted.

† Gough.

‡ Morant, in his History of Essex, says the steeple was finished this year.

## SIR JOHN PECHE, KNIGHT.

*Sir John Peche, Knight*, was descended from *Gilbert de Peche*, who was summoned to Parliament as a Baron of this realm, in the 13th year of King Edward II. He had two sons, *Sir William Peche*, and *Sir Robert Peche*, who both accompanied King Edward I. in his victorious expedition into Scotland, in the 28th year of his reign, and assisted at the siege of Carlaverock in that kingdom: for which service they, with their company, received the honour of knighthood.

*Sir John Peche*, Knight, bought the manor of Lullingstone, in Kent, from the representatives of *Gregory de Rokesley*, Lord Mayor of London, in the year 1361; and the same year, making it his seat, he obtained from Edward III. a charter of free warren for all his lands there, which was the next year again confirmed to him.

He died in the 4th year of King Richard II., possessed of Lullingstone, when it was found, by inquisition taken after his death, that he was then seized, jointly with Mary his wife, of one messuage, two hundred and fifty acres of arable land, three acres of meadow, twelve acres of wood, 50s. rent, and forty-two hens in Lullingstone and Peyfrere, of the feoffment of *John Constantyn*, *Edmund de Claye*, and *Richard Peche*, which premises were held of the King as of the honour of Leedes, as the fourth part of one knight's fee, by the service of one pair of gilt spurs, of the price of 6d.

He was succeeded in his estates by his son *Sir William Peche*, Knight, whose widow, the Lady Joan, died, seized of them, in the 11th year of King Henry IV. and lies buried in St. Mary Wolnoth Church, in London.

Their son, *Sir John Peche*, Knight, at his death, which happened April 5th 1487, was found to be seized of the manor of Lullingstone Rosse, and Lullingstone Peyfrere, and Cokerhurst, with their appurtenances, which were held of the King as of the Duchy of Lancaster. He is interred in Lullingstone Church; and on his grave-stone

the arms of this family still remain:—viz. *Azure, a lion rampant, ermine, a la queue fourchée, crowned or.*

He left a son, *Sir John Peche*, and a daughter *Elizabeth*, who married *John Hart, Esq.*

This *Sir John Peche* was a man of great reputation at that time, being created a Knight Banneret, and made **Lord-Deputy of Calais**. He was sheriff of Kent, in the 10th year of King Henry VII.; in which year, when the *Lord Audley* and the Cornish men, who had risen in support of *Perkin Warbeck*, would have collected provisions and men in that county, he, with other gentry of it, valiantly opposed them, and obliged them to turn towards London: soon after which they were vanquished on Black-heath.

During his lifetime he paid £500 into the hands of the Masters and Wardens of the Grocers' Company, in London, of which he was free, for the performing of certain obits, alms-deeds, and works of piety for his soul's health, especially for the maintaining of the almshouses founded by him, at Lullingstone, for keeping a solemn obit, yearly, on the 1st of January, in the church of that place, and for the paying of 53*s. 4d.* yearly to the parson of Lullingstone, and his successors.

He died, seized of Lullingstone manor, and was buried under a magnificent monument in Lullingstone Church, leaving his wife, the Lady Elizabeth, surviving, to whom King Henry VIII., of his special favour, in his 31st year, granted an annuity of ten marks for life.

On his death, without issue, Elizabeth, his sister, was found to be his heir; upon which her husband, *John Hart*, of the Middle Temple, Esq., counsellor at law, in her right, became entitled to these premises.\*

\* Halsted's Hist. Kent, I, p. 511, et seq.

## SIR HENRY KEBLE.

The events connected with the life of this worthy and charitable citizen are of so little interest, that they are not worth recording, and I should not have inserted his name in this place, did not his munificence and generosity entitle him to rank among the eminent members of the Grocers' Company. *Henry Keble*, or *Herry Keybull*, as he is styled in the Company's books, was the son of *George Keble*, Grocer, of London; he was six times Master of the Grocers' Company, was made an Alderman in 1508, and, finally, presided over the City as Lord Mayor, in 1510. He gave the sum of one thousand pounds towards the building and finishing of his parish church of St. Mary Aldermanry in Budge Row. *Strype*, describing this church, mentions this fact in the following terms: “*Henry Keble* “aforementioned, deceased, and was here buried in a “vault by him prepared, with a fair monument raised over “him on the north side of the choir, now destroyed and “gone. He gave, by his testament, £1000 towards build-“ing of that church, and yet was not permitted a resting “place for his bones there.”\*

*Sir Henry Keble's* bequests to the Grocers' Company are thus particularized in the report made by the *Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities*, appointed by Parliament in 1818.

“*Sir Henry Kebyll*, knight and alderman, by his will, “dated 20th March 1514, devised to the Grocers' Com-“pany two messuages, with a garden and other appurte-“nances, in Broad-alley, in the parish of Saint Margaret “Lothbury; and also that great messuage, with the garden “and appurtenances in the parish of St. Peter the Poor; “and also a piece of ground, with the stables and other

\* *Strype's* edition of *Stowe's Surveye*. This monument was taken down, and other persons buried in his vault.

“ houses erected thereon, in the parish of St. Olave, in  
 “ the Old Jewry ; and directed, after various payments to  
 “ superstitious uses, that the said Company, with the rents  
 “ and revenues thereof should pay weekly to seven poor  
 “ men of the mystery of Grocers, such as had been lease-  
 “ holders or occupiers of the same mystery, in the City of  
 “ London, and fallen into decay and poverty, 3s. 6d. ster-  
 “ ling ; that is to say, to each 6d. Such poor men to be  
 “ selected by the Wardens and Associates of the said  
 “ mystery of Grocers, for the time being, as the room of  
 “ any of the said seven persons happened to be void.”

### SIR WILLIAM LAXTON.

This worthy member of the Company was the son of *John Laxton*, of Oundle, in the county of Northampton ; “ he was bred a Grocer in London, says *Fuller*,\* where “ he so prospered by his painfull endeavours that he was “ chosen Lord Mayor, anno Domini 1544.” He founded an almshouse and “ a free school, at Oundel, with con- “ venient maintenance, well maintained at this day by “ the Worshipfull Company of Grocers,† and hath been, “ to my knowledge (continues the same author), the “ nursery of many scholars most eminent in the uni- “ versity.”‡

The beneficence of Sir William is recorded in the two following inscriptions, which are placed over the entrance to the school-house :—

*Undellæ natus, Londini parta labore  
 Laxtonus posuit, senibus puerisque leramen.*

\* Worthies of England, vol. ii. p. 173.

† The bequest is entered in the books in the following terms :—“ The bequeste of Sir William Laxton, of certaine lands in London, to this Companie, for finding a free Scole, and maintaining of certaine poor persons, is accepted by them, with thanksgiving for his gentil remembraunce.”

‡ Worthies of England, vol. ii. p. 173.

Αθλα διδασκοντων πειρηζότις επικυρία λαμπρώς  
Μνας τριάκοντα ὄκτω σύντε δομοιστιν ἐδω.\*

The Grocers' Company have ever taken great interest in the welfare and prosperity of this school; and, such was the importance they attached to it, that, even in times when education was less considered than at present, they deemed it necessary to investigate its progress, personally; and, accordingly, a deputation, consisting of the Wardens and two or three senior members of the Court of Assistants, was, from time to time, ordered to hold a visitation at the school: their proceedings were circumstantially detailed in a report, regularly inserted among the Company's proceedings.

These reports are interesting and form a curious illustration of the manners of the times at which they were drawn up; one of them, entered in the books on the 5th July 1650, is well worthy of perusal. The visitations to Oundle were held to be so essential, that a special observation was made in the Company's journals when any thing occurred to interrupt them: on the 18th June 1644, is the following minute:—“Ordered, that the visitation of “Oundle School be this year forborne in regard to the “troubles of this kingdom, and the danger of travelling.” This was during the period of the civil wars at the latter part of the reign of Charles I.

The most remarkable event which occurred in 1544, the year of *Sir W. Laxton's* mayoralty, was the extortion, on the part of *Henry VIII.* of a sum of money from the City, by way of what was singularly termed a *benevolence* † *The Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Suffolk*, and others were deputed as Commissioners to assess the City. They sent for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to Baynard's Castle, where a sum was demanded from each of them.‡ *Richard Read*, one of the Aldermen present, absolutely

\* Bridges and Whalley's History of Northamptonshire, vol. ii. p. 411.

† Maitland's History of London, vol. ii. p. 238.

‡ Hume's History of England, vol. iv. p. 217.

refused compliance, upon which he was forcibly enrolled as a private soldier, and sent to Scotland to serve in the army under *Lord Evers*. On the defeat of this General, *Read* was made prisoner; and, in addition to the hardships he had already endured, was compelled to pay a large sum of money for his ransom.

*Sir William Laxton* died *anno Domini* 1556, and was interred in the chancel of St. Anthony's Church.

### LAURENCE SHIREFF.

This benevolent citizen, the founder of Rugby Free Grammar-School, one of the noblest and best endowed institutions of the kind in England, was born at Rugby, in the county of Warwick.\* He has by some persons been mentioned as a native of Brownsover, but that is an error, as there is a document extant which at once establishes the contrary, and that is a petition from the inhabitants to the Lord Keeper, about seventy years after the foundation of the School, in which he is specially mentioned as being born in Rugby. He followed the business of *Grocerie*, in London, and was a Liverymen of the Company of Grocers, of which he was second Warden, in 1566, the year before his death. He appears to have been a tradesman of some eminence: for he had the honour of serving the royal family, either in his particular line of business or as a purveyor; and an anecdote which is preserved of him, in *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, goes to establish the fact: he is there spoken of as “being a servant of the *Lady* (afterwards *Queen*) *Elizabeth*, and sworn unto her Grace;” and he himself calls her his “gracious lady and mistress.”

There is every probability that he had some employment about the Court, as he describes, so minutely, what he had seen the day before, of the great respect shewn to the *Lady Elizabeth* by *Cardinal Pole* and *King Philip*, in her chamber of presence.

\* Ackerman's History of Colleges, &c. 110. 1816.

As this is the only historical circumstance known of the founder of Rugby School, it is worth relating. It shows him to have been an honest man, of loyal principles, and of some degree of courage in maintaining them, as from the reception he met with from the Commissioners before whom he laid his information, it is plain he was no favourite with them, or with the courtiers, of *Queen Mary*.

*Fox* introduces his narrative by observing, that, “ though “ it be not directly appertaining to the former matter, yet “ the name may here be not unaptly inserted, for that it “ doth shew and discover the malicious hearts of the Papists “ towards this virtuous Queen, our sovereign lady in the “ the time of Queen Mary, her sister, which is reported “ as a truth credibly told by sundry honest persons, of “ whom some are yet alive, and do testify the same.”

“ Soon after the stir of *Wyatt*, and the troubles that “ happened to Queen Mary for that cause, it fortuned to “ one *Robert Farrer*, a haberdasher of London, dwelling “ near to Newgate Market, in a certain morning, to be at “ the Rose Tavern (from whence he was seldom absent), “ and falling to his common drink, as he was ever accus- “ tomed, and having in his company three other com- “ panions like himself, it chanced, the same time, one “ *Lawrence Shireff*, Grocer, dwelling not far from thence, “ to come into the same tavern, and finding there the “ same *Ferrar* (to whom of long time he had borne good “ will), sat down in the seat to drink with him. And *Far-  
rer*, being in his full cups, and not having consideration “ who were present, began to talk at large, and namely, “ against the *Lady Elizabeth*, and said—‘ *that Jill had  
been one of the chief doers of this rebellion of Wyatt's,  
and before all be done, she, and all the hereticks her  
partakers, shall well understand it. Some of those  
hope that she shall have the crown : but she, and they,  
I hope, shall hop headless, or be fried with faggots,  
before she come to it.*’ The aforesaid *Laurence Shireff*, “ Grocer, being then servant to the *Lady Elizabeth*, and “ sworn unto her Grace, could no longer forbear his old

“ acquaintance and neighbour *Farrer*, in speaking so  
“ irreverently of his mistress, but said unto him,—  
“ ‘ *Farrer*, I have loved thee as a neighbour, and have haue  
“ a good opinion of thee: but, hearing of thee that I now  
“ hear, I defy thee, and tell thee, I am her Grace’s own  
“ servant; and she is a princess, and the daughter of a  
“ noble king; and it ill becometh thee to call her a Jill:  
“ For, by thy so saying, I say thou art a knave, and I  
“ will complain on thee.’—‘ Do thy worst,’ said *Farrer*,  
“ ‘ for that I will say again:’ and so *Shireff* came from  
“ his Company.

“ Shortly after, the said *Shireff*, taking an honest  
“ neighbour with him, went before the Commissioners, to  
“ complain. The which Commissioners sat at *Bonner’s*,  
“ the bishop of London’s, house, beside St. Paul’s; and  
“ there were present *Bonner*, then being chief commis-  
“ sioner, the *Lord Mordaunt*, *Sir John Baker*, *Dr.*  
“ *Darbyshire*, chancellor to the bishop, *Dr. Story*, *Dr.*  
“ *Harpfield*, and others.

“ The aforesaid *Shireff* coming before them, declared  
“ the manner of the said *Farrer’s* talk against the *Lady*  
“ *Elizabeth*. *Bonner* answered, ‘ *Paradventure you took*  
“ *him worse than he meant*.’ ‘ *Yea, my lord*,’ said *Dr.*  
“ *Story*, ‘ *If you knew the man, as I do, you would say*  
“ *there is not a better Catholic, nor an honester man, in*  
“ *the City of London*.’”

“ ‘ *Well*,’ said *Shireff*, ‘ *my lord, she is my gracious*  
“ *lady and mistress; and it shall not be suffered that such*  
“ *a varlet as he is, should call so honourable a princess by*  
“ *the name of a Jill*. *I saw, yesterday, in the court,*  
“ *that my Lord Cardinal Pole, meeting her in her Cham-*  
“ *ber of Presence, kneeled down on his knees, and kissed her*  
“ *hand*. *And I also saw that King Philip, meeting her,*  
“ *made her like obeysance, and that his knee touched the*  
“ *ground*. *And then me thinketh it were too much to*  
“ *suffer such a varlet as he is to call her a Jill, and to wish*  
“ *them to hop headless that shall wish her Grace to enjoy*  
“ *the possession of the crown, when God shall send it to*

"her as in the right of her inheritance?" "Yea; stay there," quoth Bonner, "When God sendeth it to her, let her enjoy it. But, truly," said he, "the man that spake the words you have reported meant nothing against the Lady Elizabeth, your mistress; no more do we. But he, like an honest and zealous man, feareth the alteration of religion, which every good man ought to fear; and, therefore," said Bonner, "good man, go your ways home, and report well of us; and we will send for Farrer, and rebuke him for his rash and indiscreet words; and, we trust, he will not do the like again." "And thus Shireff came away."

One natural inference to be drawn from this account is, that *Shireff* was well known to his neighbours as a friend to that reformation in religion which was so happily brought about by his gracious mistress, as soon as she had it in her power. There can be no doubt, that he was one of those "heretics" that his neighbour *Farrer* "hoped to see hop headless, or frying amongst the faggots." The warmth excited by the exclamation plainly shows, that *Shireff* felt the application; and *Bonner's* remark, that *Farrer* "feared the alteration in religion, which every good man ought to fear;" and immediately adding, "Good man, go your ways home," demonstrates that the Bishop of London was not ignorant of this peculiarity in his character.

Some of the items in *Shireff's* will are rather curious; but they excite no objectionable ideas respecting him, only shewing he had a degree of harmless singularity in his character: I allude to the directions relating to his funeral. He wills his body to be decently buried, in the church of St. Andrew's, in Rugby, but the funeral to be first done in the City of London, whereat he will have a learned man to preach the word of God, and all other things meet to be done; and, after that, his body to be decently carried to Rugby, and there buried, near the bodies of his father and mother. He gives £10 to be distributed, on the day of his burial, in Rugby, to all the poor people that shall attend it; that is to say, to every poor man and woman twelve pence, and

to every poor child two pence ; and to the Masters, Wardens, and Company of GROCERS, he leaves the sum of £13:6:8, of which sum he wills that £6:13:4 be bestowed on a recreation of the Company on the day of his funeral.

The astonishing rise in value of part of the estates left for the endowment of Rugby-School, may be noticed as a concluding, and not the least curious feature, in this account of *Shireff*. The property alluded to, consisted of the site of a number of fine streets near the Foundling-Hospital, then called "Conduit-Mead," and from which Lamb's Conduit Street takes its name. When unbuilt on, in 1669, this plot of ground only let for £20 a-year. In 1686, it was leased for £50 per annum. In 1702, a lease was renewed to *Sir William Milman*, of forty-three years, at £60 a-year. In 1780, the annual produce was £116:17:6; and it was computed that, at the end of his lease, the vast improvements which were taking place would extend the value of the rental to £1,600 per annum ; a much greater income has, in fact, arisen ; and the revenues will be considerably increased on the termination of the present leases.

### SIR THOMAS LODGE.

*Sir Thomas Lodge*, the son of *William Lodge*, of Cresset, in Suffolk, was Lord Mayor of London in 1563. "He showed himself a magistrate of good courage," says *Strype*, "by this passage, which happened to him in his 'mayoralty.' One *Edward Skeggs*, an unworthy citizen, who, for some misdemeanor, lost the freedom of the City, but, upon submission, obtained it again, got to be a purveyor for the Queen; and thinking, as it seems, to offer some affront to the City, to make it the more public, seized upon certain of the mayor's provisions ; and, out of twenty-two capons for the mayor's table, took twelve for the Queen, and that with much saucy language, not fit for the

chief magistrate of the City to receive. Sir Thomas made him restore six of the twelve he had taken, and threatened him with the biggest pair of bolts in Newgate. But away goes *Skeggs* to the Lord Steward, then the *Earl of Arundel*, thinking he had tale enough now against the City ; and the said Lord Steward and *Sir Edward Rogers*, the Comptroller of the Household, gave too much ear to an ill man's complaint, and presently wrote a very angry threatening letter to the mayor, composed in such a stile that, I believe, seldom or never the like had been sent to so great and eminent a magistrate, and so immediate under the Crown. It began and proceeded in this tenor :—

“ We are advised that you have much misused *Edward Skeggs*, purveyor to the Queen's mouth, in making provision for her highness's own person, as in denying him of taking of twelve capons of two-and-twenty, and, of the twelve, delivered you six again, and for his so doing you gave him ill words, and threatening him to Newgate ; and gave commandment, the biggest pair of bolts in Newgate should be set on his heels ; and said, the Lord Steward, neither the said Skeggs, should have none of you for the Queen's Majesty ; and further said to him, if he took your capons any more, you would send him to Newgate, and set on him so many irons as his body could bear ; calling him villain.

“ For the which your misdemeanours, for that it is now a contagious time of sickness, we now forbear to do that, which hereafter we shall not forget to execute for her Majesty's better service, and your better knowledge of your bounden duty : charging you, in the mean time, to permit him, and all others her Majesty's officers, for the provision of her Majesty's most honourable household, to do their duty for the same : and if any of them shall do otherwise than to their duties appertaineth, advertise us thereof and we shall hear what may be said therein ; and, the matter proved, cause reformation and condign punishment of the party offending.”

“ From the Court, at Greenwich, the 19th July, 1563.”

ARUNDEL.

E. ROGERS.

The Mayor, being prudent, as well as sensible of his own quality, and seeing this storm hanging over him, made what friends he could at the court; and, the plague being then in the City, he durst not come to the court, to justify himself, but wrote his letters to two of his friends, the *Lord Robert Dudley* and *Secretary Cecil*, to acquaint them with the matter. That to the latter was to this purport :—

“ That, upon an untrue report of the said *Skeggs*, the  
 “ Lord Steward and Mr. Comptroller had conceived great  
 “ displeasure against him; but he assured the Secretary,  
 “ that *Skeggs's* reports were most untrue, and his de-  
 “ meanor so intollerable, that, if the same were duly  
 “ examined, he would be judged an unfit man for the  
 “ place where he served; as, if the contagious time were  
 “ not such but that he might repair to his answer, it should  
 “ well appear. And that, if he and such like, were more  
 “ to be credited than he (the mayor) was, he thought him-  
 “ self a far unmeet man for the place wherein he served.  
 “ Yet he had sufficient witnesses both of that man's  
 “ intollerable comparisons and demeanours, and of his,  
 “ the mayor's dealings with him, that he had not seen, for  
 “ his time, that the Mayor of London had been so dealt  
 “ with. He prayed the Secretary to have consideration of  
 “ this his grief, as it might come in question thereafter,  
 “ for their threatening portended a displeasure to come.  
 “ What they meant thereby, he knew not; but that it  
 “ seemed very strange to be so threatened, upon the false  
 “ report of so slender a person; and especially, he being  
 “ of the City, so to be borne with against the state of the  
 “ same, whereat he kicked to his simple power, because,  
 “ for his unjust dealing, before he was retained in the  
 “ Queen's service, he was disfranchised; and afterwards,  
 “ upon suit made, restored again.”

So warily, and yet with such a respect to the honour of his office, did Sir Thomas Lodge behave himself.\*

\* This account is from Strype's “ Relations of worthy Mayors,” in the first volume of his Survey of London.

## SIR JOHN RIVERS.

*Sir John Rivers* was of an old and highly respectable Kentish family;\* his father, *Richard Rivers*, of Penshurst, was steward of the lands of *Edward Duke of Buckingham*, and *Sir John*, who was a member of the Grocers' Company, served the office of Lord Mayor of London in 1573, being the fifteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. His son *Robert* was also knighted, and his grandson *John Rivers, Esq.* was created a baronet by King James I.; and from him descends the present *Sir Henry Rivers*.

The plague broke out in London during *Sir John's* mayoralty, and the Queen, out of tender regard to the welfare of her people, enjoined the Mayor not to give any entertainment at Guildhall on the day of his inauguration into office, in order to prevent the assemblage of people usual on such occasions.† The Common-council took this opportunity to regulate the performance of stage-plays and interludes, which, in an order of their court, they described as the occasion of much sin and evil; as the plays, being commonly acted on Sundays and holydays, caused the churches to be forsaken and the playhouses thronged.

The actors were allowed to “perform in private houses, “lodgings of noblemen, citizens, or gentlemen, for the “festivity of a marriage, assembly of friends, or any like “cause, without public collection of money of the audi-“tors or beholders.” They endeavoured, in vain, to remonstrate, and they were finally ordered “that they should “not play openly till the whole deaths have been by twenty “days under fifty a week.”

\* Halsted's History of Kent.

† Maitland's History of London.

## SIR STEPHEN SOAME.

The following monumental inscription in the church of Little Thirlow, in Suffolk, gives the best account of *Sir Stephen Soame* and of his family :—

Consecrated  
to the Memory  
of the Right Worshipful Sr. Stephen  
Soame Kt. Lord Mayor of the Citie of  
London, in the year of our Lord 1598, and Mayor  
of the Staple there, almost 20 yeares, who was the  
Second Son of Thomas Soame, of Botely, alias Betely,  
in the County of Norfolcke, Gentleman, and Anne, his Wife  
Daughter and heir of Francis Knighton, of Little Bradley  
in the County of Suffolcke, Esquier, and the Widowe of Richard  
Lehunt, of the said Towne, and County, Gentleman. The said Sir Stephen  
in his Life-time re-edified and newly Glazed the Great North Window of  
the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in London. Newly settled and  
adorned at  
his own charge, the Roof of Grocers' Hall, in that city, gave to the  
same Company 10£ to be bestowed weekly in bread upon the poor Pri-  
soners of the Counter in the Poultry of London, for ever. In this Towne of  
Little Thurlow, erected and buylt a Free School, with 20£ maintenance  
for a Master, and 10£ for the Usher there, yearly for ever, where he  
erected and endowed an Almshouse besides for 9 poor people, with main-  
tenance for ever, the maintenance of both places to be paid by annuity,  
forth of the Mannour of Carleton in Cambridgeshire. He departed this  
life May 23 being Trinity Sunday, 1619, at the age of threescore and fif-  
teene yeares, at his Mansion house, by him formerly buylt in this  
Parish of Little Thurlowe.

The above epitaph reflects the highest honour on *Sir Stephen Soame*, both as a man and a Christian ; and, in

order to show the grateful estimation in which he was held during his life by his brethren of the Grocers' Company, I annex the substance of two resolutions respecting him, which are registered among the ordinances in 1617:—  
“ The offer of *Sir Stephen Soame* to new ciel the Hall  
“ though it should cost him £500, is thankfully and love-  
“ ingly accepted, and the Company will allow £20 towards  
“ the same;” upon this, workmen were ordered to begin  
the business. The ceiling was finished on the 22d October  
in the same year, and the whole thanks of the Company  
were voted to *Sir Stephen* for his great love and affection  
approved and manifested to them in “ the full performance  
“ and finyshing of the bewtyfull seeling of the Hall at his  
“ owne greate and proper charges, therebye deserving to  
“ be regystred amongst the worthye benefactors of the  
“ house” and for returning the £20 before paid him in part  
by the Wardens, as agreed on. “ He having, out of his  
“ love to the Companie and bounteous disposicyon, yme-  
“ diately retorneed the same to Mr. Warden to the use of  
“ the Companie, assuring them that he was very joyfull to  
“ see the sayd seeling soe well performed to the content  
“ and good lyking of the Companie, and that he thought  
“ the coste which he had disbursed soe well bestowed, that  
“ although the chardges had bene much more, yett he  
“ wold have borne the same wholley himself, and soe he  
“ hartily and chearfully accepted of their thankfullnesse.”  
It was thereupon ordered that the said *Sir Stephen Soame*  
should be registered amongst the benefactors of the Com-  
pany.

It should be stated, that *Sir Stephen* was originally a member of the Weavers' Company, but, as he was ineligible to the office of Lord Mayor “on accounte of belongyng  
“ to an inferior Companie and not one of the twelve greate  
“ Companies,” he petitioned to be admitted a brother of the Company of Grocers; his suit was granted, and he was enrolled accordingly.

## SIR HUMPHREY WELD.

Strype states that *Sir Humphrey Weld*, citizen and Grocer, was the son of *John Weld*, of Eaton, in Cheshire, and that he served the office of Lord Mayor of London in the year 1608.

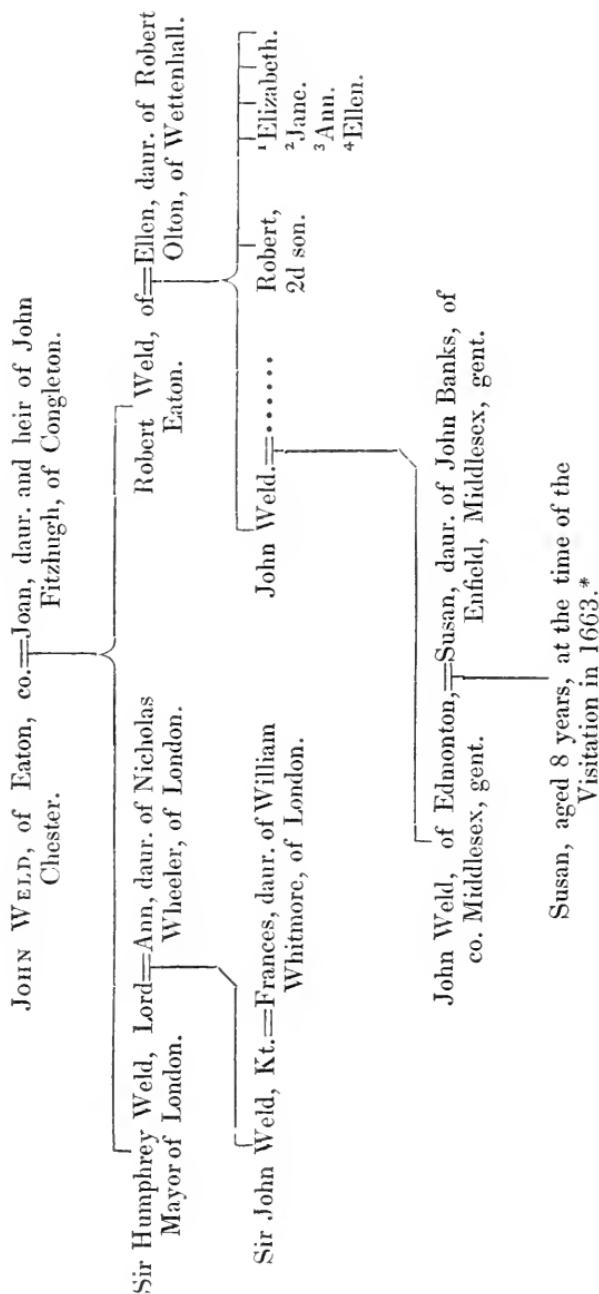
*Lysons*,\* in tracing the descent of the manor of East Barnet, affirms it to have been sold, in 1619, to *Sir John Weld*, and that *Frances*, the relict of *Humphrey Weld*, conveyed it, in 1645, to *William Small* and *Thomas Urmstone*. In 1608, *Ellis*† mentions Baumes, or Balmes, the seat of *Sir George Whitmore*, at Hoxton, to have been in the *Welds* of Cheshire, and quotes, in proof, the following entry from the register of St. John's, Hackney, in which parish that house is situate, “*Anne Welde*, the “daughter of *John Welde*, of London, Esquier, and of “*Fraunces*, his wyffe, was born at Balmes, in the p’isshe “of Hackeneye, in the county of Midd. upon the 27 “daye of September, A°. 1608, and baptizeth the same “daye.”

The same author, in explanation of this entry, afterwards exhibits, partly from the Harleian MS,‡ and partly from a collection of Shropshire pedigrees, lately in the library of *Mr. Gough*, of Enfield, the following pedigree:—

\* *Environs of London*, vol. ii.

† *History of Shoreditch*.

‡ 1427, fo. 106, *Visitation of London*, in 1634.



\* Visitation of Middlesex, by W. Ryley, Esq. Lancaster Herald, and Henry Detwick, Rouge Croix, in 1663.

The *Weld* family were inhabitants of the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, at an early period, as the name of *Mr. Edward Weld* is mentioned in the assessment-book for rebuilding the church of that parish in 1633. *Humphrey Weld, Esq.*, eldest son of the Mayor, was many years a magistrate of that district, and his autograph, in that capacity, occurs frequently in the parish books. Wild-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, or *Weld*-street, as it should be called, occupies a portion of the house and grounds formerly the property of this gentleman. The mansion was built in the early part of the reign of Charles I. by *Sir Edward Stradling*, on ground then called *Oldwick close*, and sold to *Mr. Humphrey Weld* in 1651; its magnitude sufficiently indicates the opulence of the owner. The contemporary deeds describe this mansion as having a centre and two wings, and its street-front as extending 150 feet in breadth, and its depth behind, with the garden, 300 feet. One of the wings furnished a sufficient residence for the *Countess of Exeter*, and the other for the Portuguese and Spanish Ambassadors successively.

It was in the year of *Sir Humphrey Weld's* mayoralty, that James I. granted to the City, what was called his *second charter*, in which the City liberties and jurisdictions were considerably extended, and the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen past the chair, were appointed justices of *Oyer* and *Terminer*. By this valuable charter, all the ancient rights, liberties, and immunities of the citizens were confirmed in the most ample manner, and the precincts of Duke's Place, St. Bartholomew's the Greater and Less, Black and White Friars, and Cold-Harbour, added to the bounds of the City.

This year, also, Aldgate is stated to have been "substantially and famously finished,"\* and that over one of the arched passages was fairly engraven,

"*Senatus populusque Londinensis*  
" *Fecit 1609.*  
" *Humfry Weld, Major.*

\* Stowe's *Survaie*.

*Dame Margaret*, wife of *Sir Humphrey*, by her will, dated 12th February 1622, gave, *inter alia*, the sum of £300 to the churchwardens and parishioners of St. Olave's, in the Old Jewry, in trust, to purchase lands and tene-ments, the rents of which were to be employed for a divinity lecture to be preached every Wednesday throughout the year for ever, “ except from the 1st of June until the “ feast of St. Michael the Archangel.” *Sir John Frederic*, also a member of the Grocers’ Company, left £225 to be laid out in land to the value of £12 a year, to be added to *Lady Weld’s* lecture.\*

### SIR PETER PROBY.

*Randolph Proby*, of the city of Chester, settled at the close of the fifteenth century, at Brampton, in the county of Huntingdon, and, by a daughter of —— *Bernard*, Esq. had two sons, namely, Ralph of Brampton, who died in 1605 without issue, and Sir Peter of Brampton, *Citizen and Grocer*, who was Lord Mayor of London, in 1622. He married Elizabeth, daughter, of *John Thoroughgood*, of Chivers, in the county of Essex, Esq. leaving five sons† and one daughter.

His eldest son, *Sir Heneage Proby*, succeeded him, and was Sheriff of Bucks in 1600; he married Helen, daughter of *Edward Allen*, of Finchley, in the county of Middlesex, Esq. and, by her, had Sir Thomas, the first baronet in 1662, who married Frances daughter of *Sir Thomas Cotton*, of Connington, Bart., by whom he had issue, Thomas, who died unmarried, and Alice, who, by *Thomas Wentworth*, of Harrowden, in the county of Northampton, Esq. was mother of Thomas, first *Marquess of Rockingham*. Sir Thomas represented the county of Huntingdon in several parlia-ments; and died, without male issue, in 1689. He was

\* Endowed charities of London.

† The second son was a considerable benefactor to Jesus College, Cambridge.

succeeded in his estates by his brother John, who married Jane, daughter of *Sir Richard Cust, Bart.*, ancestor of the *Earls of Brownlow*. John died without issue male, in 1710, when his estates devolved to the heir male, *William Proby, Esq.*, Governor of Fort St. George. His only son, John, represented the county of Huntingdon in several parliaments; and, by the Honourable *Jane Leveson Gower*, eldest daughter of *John Lord Gower*, and granddaughter of *John Duke of Bedford*, had issue, among other children, *Sir John Proby*, eldest son, member for Huntingdonshire, in three successive parliaments, K. B., Lord of the Admiralty in 1757, a Privy Counsellor, and created *Baron Carysfort*, of Carysfort, in the county of Wicklow, in 1752. Sir John married the Honourable *Elizabeth Allen*, sister and co-heir of John, third Viscount Allen, by whom he had John Joshua, the present and second Lord, who was advanced to the dignity of *Earl of Carysfort*, in 1789, and created a Peer of England on the 13th of January 1801, by the title of *Baron Carysfort*, of Norman Cross, in the county of Huntingdon.

In 1616 our *Sir Peter Proby*, who had previously been appointed governor of the colony of Ulster, in Ireland, by special commission from the King and the City of London, repaired thither, attended by divers of the most eminent citizens, to regulate certain affairs belonging to the plantation, taking with him two rich swords of state, as a present from the City, to be carried before the Mayors of Londonderry and Coleraine, the former having been some time before erected into a City, and the latter into a Mayor-town.\*

## THOMAS, LORD COVENTRY, OF AYLESBOROUGH.

*Thomas Lord Coventry* was descended from a long line of ancestors, the first of whom, on record, was *John Co-*

\* Maitland's History of London.

*ventry, Mercer, of the City of London, and Lord Mayor in the 4th year of Henry VI.*

He was born at Croome d'Abitot, in Worcestershire, in 1578, became a gentleman commoner of Balliol College Oxford at the age of fourteen, and, three years afterwards, was entered a member of the Inner Temple. His father *Thomas Coventry*, who died in 1606, having been one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, he pursued his steps in the study of the municipal laws; and, in the 14th year of James I., was chosen autumn reader to the above society; in the month of November, in the same year, he was elected Recorder of London, and, in March following, constituted Solicitor-General, and received the honour of Knighthood at Theobald's. Four years afterwards he was made Attorney-General, and, from thence, advanced to the eminent office of Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal of England, by *King Charles I.*, in November 1625. He was created a Baron of the realm in 1628, by the title of *Lord Coventry, of Aylesbury.*\*

*Lord Clarendon* says of him that “he was a man of wonderful gravity and wisdom; and understood not only the whole science and mystery of the law: at least, equally with any man who had ever sat in that place; but had a clear conception of the whole policy of the government both of church and state; which, by the unskilfulness of some well-meaning men, justled each the other too much.” Further, continues the same author in another place, “He discharged all the offices he went through with great abilities, and singular reputation of integrity; “that he enjoyed his place of Lord-Keeper with an universal reputation (and sure, justice was never better administered) for the space of about sixteen years, even to his death,† some months before he was sixty years of age” His patent of creation, as a Baron of the realm, enumerates the services rendered to the crown, and to the country at large; and the following extract from it

\* Collin's Peerage, vol. v.

† History of England, vols. i. and iii.

will shew the estimation he stood in with the King:—

“ *Nos igitur in personâ prædicti & perquam fidelis  
consiliarii nostri Thomæ Coventry, Militis, custodis  
magni sigilli nostri Angliæ, gratissima et dignissima  
servitia, qua idem consiliarius noster tam præcha-  
rissimo patri nostro Jacobo Regi beatæ memorie per  
multos annos, quam nobis ab ipsis regni nostri primis  
auspiciis fidelissime et prudentissime præstitit et impendit,  
indiesque impendere non desistit; necnon circumspec-  
tionem, prudentiam, strenuitatem, dexteritatem, in-  
tegritatem, industriam, erga nos et Coronam nostram  
animo benigno & regali intime recolentes constantiam  
et fidelitatem ipsius Thomæ Coventry, Militis, &c. In  
cujus rei, &c. T. R. apud Westm. decimo die Aprilis,  
anno regni Regis Caroli 4°.*”

One of the most honourable testimonials of this learned Lord's success in the discharge of his arduous functions as Chancellor, is borne by *Fuller*, who says—“ I must not forget that it hath been observed, that never Lord-Keeper made fewer orders, which afterwards were reversed, than this Lord Coventry; which some ascribe to his discretion, grounding most of his orders on the consent and compromise of the parties themselves interested therein, whose hands, so tied up by their own act, were the more willing to be quiet for the future.”\*

Lord Coventry was admitted a member of the Grocers' Company, in the year 1627, and is the first lawyer who ever received that honour.†

He died at Durham-House in the Strand, in London, on the 14th January 1629, and was interred at Croome d'Abitot, in the same vault with his father.

\* Worthies of England, vol. ii. p.470.

† His Lordship must have been popular with the Company for several years before his admission into it, as I find in the books that, on the 15th Dec. 1625, twenty sugar-loaves, and such other spices as the wardens should think fit, to the full value of £20, were ordered to be given to *Lord-Keeper Coventry*, “as a free and loving gratuity from the Court.”

**CHARLES THE SECOND, BY THE GRACE OF  
GOD, KING OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, FRANCE,  
AND IRELAND, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, &c. &c.**

In 1660, the year of his restoration to the throne of England, His Majesty was graciously pleased to permit his name to be enrolled as a Member of the Worshipful Company of Grocers, and as their SOVEREIGN MASTER for that year. The Company erected a statue of His Majesty, in the Royal Exchange, in 1684, as a testimonial of their grateful respect and attachment to his Royal person.

**GEORGE MONK, DUKE OF ALBEMARLE.**

“ He is a soldier, fit to stand by Cæsar  
“ And give direction.”

*Othello. Act II. Sc. 3.*

The details of the life and actions of this illustrious nobleman are so generally known that it becomes unnecessary to repeat them here at length. He was descended of a family, settled, so early as the reign of Henry III. at Potheridge in Devonshire, where he was born, on the 6th day of December 1608, and was educated by his grandfather, *Sir George Smith*, with whom he almost entirely resided. As he expected no inheritance from his father, *Sir Thomas Monk*,\* he dedicated himself to the profession of arms from his youth. His father's reduced fortune was the means of exciting the first ebullition of spirit in him, and of compelling him to enter into military service at the age of seventeen, which was earlier than was intended.† Sir Thomas, it appears, was in danger of being taken in execution at the time that *King Charles the First* made a progress into the west and came to Plymouth, to review

\* Biographical Dictionary, vol. v.

† Skinner's Life of Monk.

the forces intended for the Spanish expedition : and, being willing to make an appearance suitable to his rank on that occasion, he sent his son George to offer a present to the under-sheriff of the county, and to entreat him not to execute his warrant against him at that particular time : the under-sheriff accepted the gratuity and promised forbearance ; notwithstanding which, he afterwards publicly arrested Sir Thomas in the face of the county. The young man was so irritated at this scandalous treatment of his father, that he went to Exeter, and, first upbraided, and then caned, the under-sheriff for his double-dealing. The attorney immediately applied for legal redress, and, in order to avoid the suit, young *Monk* was obliged to shelter himself in the king's service. Whether this induced his adversary to drop the prosecution, or whether the matter was afterwards arranged, is not known.

*George Monk* began by serving in the Low Countries, under the *Lords Oxford* and *Gowring*. In the civil wars, he at first adhered to the king, but, having suffered a tedious imprisonment for his loyalty, he entered into the service of the parliament. He signalized himself at the battle of Dunbar, where he had a principal share in that important victory. He was, subsequently, employed by *Cromwell* in reducing Scotland, which he did effectually, and was entrusted with the chief management of affairs in that kingdom.\* He was afterwards the great instrument of the Restoration, and was rewarded with the Order of the Garter and with the *Dukedom of Albemarle*, by Charles the Second.+

He signalized his courage in an astonishing manner in the memorable engagement with the Dutch, which began the 1st of June 1666, and continued four days. He was very near being overpowered by numbers, when he was joined, on the third day, by *Prince Rupert*, who ravished the victory from the enemy's hands. The last display of his courage, equal at least to any other act of his life, was in

\* Granger's Biographical History, vol. iii.

+ Skinner's Life of Monk.

exposing himself to the cannon-shot of the Dutch, when they burned the English ships at Chatham. This effort of valour, which looked like rashness, was then absolutely necessary to encourage others to do their duty. The love which the seamen entertained for him had as great an influence on board the fleet as his personal bravery. They frequently called him “ honest *George Monk*.<sup>\*</sup>

*General Monk* was elected a member of the Grocers’ Company in February 1660, and the freedom presented to him at a magnificent entertainment, given at the Hall, the particulars of which are detailed at page 28.

*The Duke of Albemarle* deceased on the 4th of January 1669, leaving one son, named Christopher, who was appointed Governor of Jamaica in 1687, and who died there the same year, leaving no issue.

The remarks which I had occasion to make in relating the life of *Sir Nicholas Brember*, respecting the partiality of historians, in narrating the actions of illustrious men, and colouring them according to their own political feelings, are nowhere more strongly illustrated than in the case of the *Duke of Albemarle*. The contemporary writers, one and all, are loud in his praises as a loyal and devoted subject; but those of more modern times differ in their opinions respecting his *motives*; the facts, of course, they cannot alter. “ Never subject, in fact,” says *Hume*, “ probably, in his intentions had deserved better of his king and country. In the space of a few months, without effusion of blood, by his cautious and disinterested conduct alone, he had bestowed settlement on three kingdoms, which had long been torn with the most violent convulsions. And, having obstinately refused the most inviting conditions offered him by the King, as well as by every party in the kingdom, he freely restored his injured master to the throne.”

Opposed to this are the sentiments of *Charles James Fox*, which he thus expresses;—“ The army, by such a

\* Granger’s Biographical History of England, vol. iii.

" concurrence of fortuitous circumstances as history teaches  
" us not to be surprised at, had fallen into the hands of  
" one, than whom a baser could not be found in its lowest  
" ranks. Personal courage appears to have been *Monk's*  
" only virtue; reserve and dissimulation made up the  
" whole stock of his wisdom. There is reason to believe  
" that, from the general bias of the Presbyterians, as well  
" as of the Cavaliers, monarchy was the prevalent wish;  
" but it is observable that, although the parliament was,  
" contrary to the principle upon which it was pretended to  
" be called, composed of many avowed royalists, yet none  
" dared to hint at the restoration of the King, till they had  
" *Monk's* permission, or rather command to receive and  
" consider his letters. It is impossible, in reviewing the  
" whole of this transaction, not to remark, that a General  
" who had gained his rank, reputation, and station in the  
" service of the republic, and what he, as well as others,  
" called, however falsely, the cause of liberty, made no  
" scruple to lay the nation prostrate at the feet of a mo-  
" narch, without a single provision in favour of that cause;  
" and, if the promise of indemnity may seem to argue  
" that there was some attention, at least, paid to the safety  
" of his associates in arms, his subsequent conduct gives  
" reason to suppose that even this provision was owing to  
" any other cause rather than to any generous feeling in  
" his breast; for he not only acquiesced in the insults so  
" meanly put upon the illustrious corpse of *Blake*, under  
" whose auspices and commands he had performed the  
" most creditable services of his life; but, in the trial of  
" *Argyll*, produced letters of friendship and confidence,  
" to take away the life of a nobleman, the zeal and cor-  
" diality of whose co-operation with him, proved by such  
" documents, were the chief ground of his execution;  
" thus, gratuitously, surpassing in infamy those miserable  
" wretches, who, to save their own lives, are sometimes  
" persuaded to impeach and swear away the lives of their  
" accomplices." This is strong language, and quite in-  
compatile with the calm, dignified, and impartial tone

which the writer of history ought, on all occasions, to adopt. It is worthy of remark, however, that since *Fox* wrote the passage I have just quoted, the memoirs of *Evelyn* and of *Pepys* have come to light. These writers, whose diaries were never intended for publication, and who, from their characters, are entitled to credit, are agreed in their opinions of *General Monk*; the latter, in particular, has the following passage:—“ The General, “ boldly and fortunately, brought to pass that noble revo-“ lution, following it, to his eternal honour, by restoring a “ banished prince and the people’s freedom.”\* Opinions to a similar effect are several times repeated in the above-mentioned works. *Prince*, in his “ Worthies of Devon,”† writes as follows, on the same subject. “ At this time “ many endeavours were used to persuade the General to “ assume the supreme government of England to himself, “ especially by many of those who were concerned in the “ late King’s murder, and the possession of the crown and “ church’s lands; but the General renounced all such sug-“ gestions with the greatest anger and aversion; holding a “ greater honour to be an honest subject than a great “ usurper.” Such statements, coming from persons who lived at the time, are, surely, more worthy of credit and confidence than the mere conjectures of authors who wrote a century and a half later.

### SIR THOMAS ALLEYN, BART.

*Sir Thomas Alleyn*, son of *William Alleyn*, of Hatfield-Peverel, in Essex, was Lord Mayor of London at the Restoration of *King Charles the Second*, in 1660.

He went forth to meet the King on the 29th of May in the same year, the day of His Majesty’s entrance into London in triumph. The Grocers’ Company, on that occasion, for their portion of the pageant, provided “ thirty

\* Memoirs of John Evelyn, vol. iii. 8vo. edit.

† Danmonii Orientales Illustris. Edit. 1810, page 93.

" persons as riders, and each a man, in livery, to attend  
 " him, (the Lord Mayor,) for the more magnificent recep-  
 " tion of the King's most excellent Majesty, in his passage  
 " through this City."\*

On the 7th of June 1660, as appears by the Company's records, he acquainted the Court of Assistants "that he had, by special friendship at Court, procured the moving of His Majestie to owne the Company of Grocers for his Company; and that His Majestie was pleased to hearken to the motion, and express his willingness to be of the Company. His Lordship further related that, being to attend His Majestie shortly after, he had taken occasion to present His Majestie with the humble thanks of this Company for his gracious concession of so high a favour, and that he would be ready, at some convenient time hereafter, to accompany the Master and Wardens to wait upon His Majestie, which, he conceived, was very fitting; which was very well accepted and approved of by this Court, and hearty thanks returned His Lordship for his respect and favour to the Company."

Accordingly, on the 18th of July following, *Sir Thomas Alleyn* notified to the Court that the presentation of the Master and Wardens to the King had taken place, and the transaction is recorded in the journals in the following terms :—

" This day, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor made relation to the Court that, on Friday last, the 13th of July instant, he did accompany the Master and Wardens, and some others of the Company to White-hall, to attend the King's most excellent Majesty, according to the appointment of this Court, to present the humble suit and desire of this Company to His Majestie, for his gracious acceptance and owning of them for his Company, which had been before-hand moved to His Majestie by a person of quality, upon His Lordship's request, and favourably hearkened unto; That His Majestie, upon their address, was pleased to

\* The Company's Journals.

“ vouchsafe them a favourable audience and gracious con-  
 “ descension, and, with much cheerfulness of countenance  
 “ and expressions of princely complacency, to declare his  
 “ readiness to satisfy their desires in owning the Company,  
 “ and being admitted thereof, and recorded for a member  
 “ of the society, with other free expressions, also of  
 “ princely grace and favour towards the City, and was  
 “ pleased to give them all his royal hand to kiss, and to  
 “ confer the honour of knighthood upon the Master of  
 “ the Company,” (*Mr. Stephen White,*) “ the care and  
 “ effecting whereof is received by this Court as an accept-  
 “ able service, and offer of much respect and honour to  
 “ the Company.”

### SIR GEOFFRY PALMER, KNT. AND BART.

This learned and distinguished member of the Grocers' Company, was descended from an ancient family originally seated at Holt and Ston Stanton in Leicestershire, the first noted individual of which, was *William Palmer, Esq.* “ a person very eminent in the knowledge of the law” in the reign of Henry IV.

*Sir Geoffry Palmer* was advanced to the dignity of a Baronet soon after the restoration. He was, at first, a manager against the *Earl of Strafford*, but lost all his credit with that party and never recovered it, for using a decency and modesty in his carriage and language towards him; though the weight of his arguments pressed more upon the Earl, than the noise of all the rest.\* He was, says my *Lord Clarendon*, “ a man of great reputation and much esteemed in the House of Commons; and in the debate about the remonstrance, his speech not being agreeable to the prevailing party in the House, he was committed to the Tower, they having borne him a long grudge for the civility he shewed in the prosecution of the *Earl of Strafford*; but he was in a few days enlarged

\* Kimber's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 10.

" and returned again to the House," and did his Majesty great service, and was one of the Commissioners appointed by his Majesty at the treaty of Uxbridge. He was afterwards Attorney-General to King Charles II. *Anthony Wood* says of him; " He was chosen a burgess for Stamford in Lincolnshire, to sit in that parliament which began Nov. 3d 1640, wherein he was a manager of the evidence against *Thomas, Earl of Strafford*, and seemed to be an enemy to the prerogative: but, afterwards, perceiving well what mad courses the members of the said parliament took, he boldly delivered his mind against printing of that declaration, called the grand Remonstrance; for which he was committed to custody in November 1642; afterwards being freed thence, he retired to Oxon, sat in the parliament there, and was esteemed a loyal and able person in his profession. Upon the declining of the King's cause, he suffered, as other royalists did, lived obscurely in England, and upon pretence of plotting with the cavaliers against *Oliver the Protector*, he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, in the month of May, 1655. On the 1st May 1660, his Majesty being then restored, he was made Attorney-General and about that time Chief-justice of Chester and a knight, and, on the 7th June following, he was created a baronet."

*Sir Geoffry Palmer* was elected a member of the Grocers' Company in 1661, at the same time with *Sir Heneage Finch*, the Solicitor-General. He died at Hampstead in Middlesex, on the 5th of May 1670, at the age of seventy-two, and having lain in state in the hall of the Middle Temple, attended by the heralds at arms, he was, from thence, conveyed in a hearse, followed by a long train of coaches of the nobility, the judges, and others, through the town to Carlton, his seat in Northamptonshire; he was there interred among his ancestors, in the family vault within the parish church.\*

\* Kimber's Baronetage, vol. ii.

## THE RIGHT HON. HENEAGE FINCH, FIRST EARL OF NOTTINGHAM.

“ Avea per altro il don della parola,  
“ E gli uscian bei periodi di bocca.”  
*Casti.*

This eminent character was born in 1621, received the rudiments of his education at Westminster school, whence he removed to Christ Church, Oxford, and afterwards commenced his legal career as a student of the Inner Temple.\* At the Restoration, he was chosen M.P. for Canterbury, and for the borough of St. Michael's in Cornwall, and was one of the leading members of the House of Commons. So that on the first appointments by the King to the benches and courts of judicature (June 6, 1660) he was made Attorney-General, and was the next day knighted, and created a baronet under the denomination of Raunston in com. Bucks. The year following he was chosen treasurer of the Inner Temple, as also Autumn or Summer Reader of that Society, when his readings on the statute 39 Eliz. concerning the payment and recovery of debts of the Crown, not only attracted general attention, but led to his attaining the highest honours. During these readings and entertainments, which lasted from the 4th to the 17th of August, he was honoured with the presence of the nobility and privy-counsellors; the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and principal citizens of London; the whole College of Physicians, who came in their formalities; the judges advocates, doctors of the civil law, and all the Society of Doctors' Commons; the archbishops, bishops, and chief clergy; and lastly, on finishing his course, Aug. 15th, by that of the King himself, who accepted an invitation to dine with him in the Society's Hall; and to confer the greater honour, came in his barge from Whitehall, accompanied by the Duke of York, the great officers of the Crown, and many of the prime nobility and other distinguished personages.

\* Collins's Peerage.

This incident is related by a contemporary author in the following strong terms.\* “ This moneth of August 1661, “ was the reading of that excellent lawyer and accom-“ plished gentleman *Sir Heneage Finch*, his Majestie’s “ solicitor at the Inner Temple, whose nobleness and gene-“ rosity were herein equal to his matchless abilities in the “ laws, as his magnificence in this solemn occasion did “ make appear, especially in that particular treatment he “ gave the King, who to honour this, one of his best “ servants, was graciously pleased to accept of it, and to “ dine in that Hall,—a favour not before indulged to any “ of these famous Societies by any of his royal progenitors. “ The most illustrious Duke of York was present, and “ dined there with his brother to both their likings and “ approbations.”

In 1661 *Sir Heneage* was returned M. P. for Oxford ; and, in 1665, after proroguing the Parliament which had sat there, was created, in full convocation, Doctor of the Civil Law : he being one of the four members who, by order of the House of Commons, had communicated the thanks of that House to the University, for their reasons concerning the Solemn League and Covenant, &c. made in 1647. Soon after this, on the debate about what was termed the “ *Five-Mile Act*,” when *Vaughan*, afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, moved in the House, that the word *legally* might be added to the words *com-  
missioned by the King*, *Sir Heneage Finch* said it was needless : “ for, if the commission was not legal, it was “ no commission ; and, to make it legal, it must be issued “ out for a lawful occasion, and to persons capable of it, “ and must pass in the due form of law ;” whereupon the Bill passed in the House of Commons, and, when it came before the Lords, the *Earl of Southampton* moved for the same additions, who was answered by the *Earl of Anglesey*, on the same grounds and reasons *Sir Heneage Finch* gave ; with which that House was satisfied, and the Act passed.

It was in this year that he was chosen a member of the Grocers' Company.

On May 10th 1667 he was constituted Attorney-General, and made Keeper of the Great Seal. Shortly after which he was advanced to the degree of a Baron, by the title of *Lord Finch, of Daventry*, in the county of Northampton, (being the owner of that manor); and, on surrendering the Great Seal, Dec. 19th 1675, it was immediately delivered to him again, with the title of Lord High Chancellor of England; and the same year he was constituted Lord Lieutenant of the county of Somerset. It is said of him, by *Anthony Wood*, (who took more delight in reflecting on persons than giving their just characters,)—" that, in " the most boisterous and ticklish times, when the swoln " waves beat highest (occasioned by the Popish Plot), " he behaved himself with so regular, exactly poised, " and with such even steadiness, whilst others, whose " actions not being so justly balanced, either were dis- " charged from their offices, or else they themselves, by " an ungenerous cowardice, voluntarily resigned them up, " as unwilling, manfully, to encounter approaching diffi- " culties, of which they pretended to have prospects, that " he still stood firm in the good opinion of his Prince; " and, which is more to be admired, at that time, when " many worthy ministers of state were, by the malice of " designing men, branded with the old infamous character " of evil counsellors, in order to have them to be run " down and worried by the violent outrages of the un- " thinking, giddy, and headstrong multitude: during all " which time and clamour against persons, (which con- " tinued from October 1678, to the beginning of the year " 1681, after the Oxford Parliament was dissolved,) he " was neither bandied against, or censured in the more " private seditious cabals, nor was his master publickly " addressed to for his removal."

In 1677, he was Lord High Steward of England, on the trial of *Philip Earl of Pembroke*, who was then found guilty of manslaughter. In March 1679, on the

impeachment of the *Earl of Danby*, and the King signing his pardon, the Commons appointed a Committee to repair to the Lord Chancellor, to inquire into the manner of setting forth that pardon, whereupon the Lord Chancellor informed the Committee, “ That the pardon was “ passed with all privacy, the King commanding him to “ bring the seal to Whitehall ; and, being there, he laid it “ upon the table : whereupon His Majesty commanded the “ seal to be taken out of the bag, which his Lordship was “ obliged to submit unto, it not being in his power to “ hinder it ; and the King writ his name upon the top of “ the parchment, and then directed to have it sealed ; “ whereupon the person that usually carried the purse, “ affixed the seal to it.”

Upon this report from his Lordship, the Commons resolved, “ That an humble address be made to His Majesty, “ to represent the irregularity and illegality of the pardon “ mentioned by His Majesty to be granted to the *Earl of Danby*, and the dangerous consequence of granting “ pardons to any persons that lie under an impeachment “ of the Commons of England.”

In April following, the King resolved on choosing a new Privy Council to consist of a number not exceeding thirty, whereof fifteen to be the chief officers, privy counsellors by their places, ten out of the several ranks of the nobility, and five commons of the realm, “ whose known “ abilities, interest, and esteem in the nation, should render them without all suspicion of either mistaking or “ betraying the true interest of the kingdom.” This change of the Council was proposed by *Sir William Temple*, who was ordered by the King to communicate it to the *Lord Chancellor Finch*, the *Earl of Sutherland*, and the *Earl of Essex*, but one after the other ; and thereupon the Lord Chancellor said, *it looked like a thing from Heaven fallen into His Majesty's breast*. And the King valued himself so much on it, that, finding those three noble peers concur therein, he acquainted the Parliament of his having made choice of such persons as were worthy

and able to advise him, and was resolved in all weighty and important affairs, next to the advice of his great council in parliament, to be advised by the Privy Council.

The Lord Chancellor in all affairs shewed such wisdom and such moderation, that he was then usually styled the English *Cicero*. He laboured to bring about the accepting of the limitations on the next successor, as the wisest and best method, knowing the King would never be brought to consent to the Bill of Exclusion. And, in the case of the *Earl of Danby*, though he never favoured him, yet, when the debate arose in the House of Lords, concerning the bishops' right of voting in any part of a trial for treason, the Lord Chancellor by his arguments carried it for them; it being agreed, that though the bishops did not vote in the final judgement, yet they had a right to vote in all preliminaries.

On the 30th of Nov. 1680 he was Lord High Steward on the trial of the *Earl of Stafford*, and, on his being found guilty of high treason, pronounced judgement in one of the most impressive speeches he had ever made. May 12, 1681, he was created *Earl of Nottingham*, as a reward of his faithful services; but a long attention to business had now worn him out, and he survived the honour only till the next year. He died at his house, Great Queen-Street Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, Dec. 18, 1682, in the sixty-first year of his age, and was buried on the 28th of the same month, in the church of Rauston, near Olney Bucks, where a superb altar monument, with his effigy, &c. was erected by his son, the second Earl. In an epitaph are set forth his name and titles, with the particulars of his descent, the successive offices he filled, his marriage, offspring, &c. and an ample and deserved panegyric on his talents and virtues.

## GEORGE, EARL OF BERKELEY.

This distinguished nobleman was the son of *George Lord Berkeley*, Knight of the Bath, who died in 1658, and whose ancestor, *Harding*,\* accompanied *William Duke of Normandy* to England, and was with him at the memorable battle of Hastings.

The subject of this memoir manifested the greatest loyalty to *King Charles the Second*, whose restoration he was instrumental in promoting: for this, and for other eminent services, as the patent expresses it, he was advanced to the degree of an *Earl* by the title of *Earl of Berkeley*; and in 1678 was sworn a member of the Privy Council.† Having been made free of the Grocers' Company in 1660, he served the office of Master in 1682. His lordship was appointed *Custos Rotulorum* of the county of Gloucester by *King James* in January 1684, and, in the subsequent year, became one of his Privy Council. On that Monarch's withdrawing himself, he was one of the Lords who assembled at Guildhall; and, having sent for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, subscribed a declaration, “ That “ they would assist his Highness the *Prince of Orange*, “ in obtaining a free parliament, wherein our laws, liber- “ ties, and properties may be secured; the church of Eng- “ land in particular, with a due liberty to Protestant Dis- “ senters; and, in general, the Protestant religion over “ the whole world, may be supported and encouraged, “ &c.”

On the accession of *King William* and *Queen Mary*, he was appointed one of their Privy Council, and in July 1689 constituted *Custos Rotulorum* of the county of *Surrey*.

This noble *Earl* departed this life in October 1698, and was interred at *Cranford* in Middlesex.

\* This Harding descended from the royal line of the Kings of Denmark.—*Abbot Newland's Pedigree in Berkeley Castle*.

† *Collins's Peerage of England*, vol. iii.

## SIR JOHN MOORE, KNT.

With the exception of *Sir John Cutler*, there is no individual to whom the Grocers' Company are under greater obligations than *Sir John Moore*. At a period when their affairs were in the greatest confusion, their revenues entirely suspended and their Hall in ruins, he gave a noble example of liberality to his brother liverymen: his conduct is noticed in the Company's books, in the following terms:

“ *Sir John Moore*, a worthy member of this society, “ taking into his serious consideration the deplorable condition of this Company, every year much declining in reputation, by reason of the ruined condition of their Hall, offers, as an encouragement to strangers to join it, “ to repair it at his own costs, hoping to induce other members, by this example, to contribute liberally towards the Company's debts.” The estimate of the proposed repairs amounted to £500, which *Sir John* paid to the Wardens on the 14th of March 1681; he exerted, besides, all his influence to prevail on his brethren to assist him in the laudable work, and succeeded to so great a degree, that, in January 1684, the Court of Assistants expressed their sense of his services by passing the following resolution:—

“ This Court being deeply sensible of the great kindness done to this Company by *Sir John Moore*, Alderman of this City, a worthy member, in so large and liberal a summe of money freely given for repairing and beautifying of the Company's Hall at his own proper charge, by whose example the rest of that great work was so commodiously carried on and perfected, to the great encouragement of all members and benefactors, doe, therefore, in great acknowledgment, order that the Wardens (to whom it is wholly referred to contract for the same on the best terms they can to have the same well done) do forthwith procure his picture to be drawn

“ to the life, and set up in a fair frame in the Hall at the  
“ Company’s charge.”

The period of *Sir John Moore’s* mayoralty was very tumultuous; it occurred in 1682 at the latter part of the reign of *Charles the Second*, whose proceedings towards the City being arbitrary and violent, naturally excited all the vehemence of party spirit. *Sir John*, eager to support the Court interest, interfered in an unusual manner in the election of Sheriffs, by nominating *Dudley North, Esq.*, and issuing to the respective Companies a precept in an unusual form. It ran thus:—

“ By the Mayor,

“ These are to require you, that on Midsummer-day  
“ next, being the day appointed as well for *confirmation*  
“ of the person WHO HATH BEEN BY ME CHOSEN, ac-  
“ cording to the ancient custom and constitution of this  
“ city and county of Middlesex, for the year ensuing, as  
“ for the election of the other of the said Sheriffs and  
“ other officers, you cause the livery of your Company to  
“ meet together at your common hall early in the morn-  
“ ing, and from thence to come together decently and  
“ orderly in their gowns to *Guildhall*, there to make the  
“ said confirmation and election. Given the nineteenth of  
“ June, 1682.

“ JOHN MOORE.”\*

This dictatorial mode of proceeding gave great offence to the citizens; so much so that when they assembled at Guildhall on Midsummer-day, and the Common-Crier made proclamation and said, “ You, Gentlemen, of the livery  
“ of London, attend your confirmation,” they interrupted the proceedings, exclaiming, with one voice, “ No con-  
“ firmation! no confirmation!” The business was sus-  
pended for nearly half an hour, and, at length, after a speech from the Recorder, it was allowed again to proceed according to the ancient method, and the four following gentlemen were put into nomination, *Dudley North*,

\* Maitland’s History of London, vol. i. p. 474.

*Ralph Box, Thomas Papillion, and John Dubois, Esquires.* The show of hands was clearly in favour of the two latter gentlemen, but a poll was demanded and granted for the four candidates.

The Lord Mayor, after some time, finding that the election would probably fall upon Messrs. *Papillion* and *Dubois*, attempted to adjourn the meeting, and retired; but the sheriffs kept the poll open till nine o'clock at night, and resumed it again on the following morning. In the meanwhile, the Lord Mayor and some of the Aldermen were assaulted by the mob,\* and the result was, that the sheriffs *Pilkington* and *Shute* and *Alderman Cornish*, were committed prisoners to the Tower of London by a warrant signed by twenty-four Privy-Councillors, who, at the same time, ordered the Attorney-General to exhibit an information against them, as promoters and encouragers of the late tumult.

On the Friday following, the prisoners were, by a writ of *habeas corpus*, brought, by the Lieutenant of the Tower, to the bar of the King's Bench, and, having pleaded *not guilty*, they were admitted to bail. On the 1st of July, the Sheriffs met at a Common-hall, when the Lord Mayor, though indisposed, sent an order to the Recorder to adjourn the Hall to the 7th of the month, but the Sheriffs, denying the validity of such adjournment, proceeded in the election and declared *Papillion* and *Dubois* duly chosen.

This elicited from the government an order in Council, in which it was stated, that His Majesty, having been informed that disorders had taken place in the City in consequence of irregular proceedings at the election of Sheriffs, ordered, that, at the Common-hall to be held on the following day, all proceedings should be begun *de novo*. This order, on being read to the citizens, occasioned great clamour, as having a tendency to invade the privileges of the City; nevertheless, the Lord Mayor, in obedience to its contents, declared *North* duly elected by him, without the sanction

\* Burnet's History of his Own Time. Kennet's History of England.

of a Common-hall, and then proceeded to a poll for another Sheriff, to which none coming that had voted for *Papillion* and *Dubois* at the former election, *Box* was chosen without opposition, and *North* and he were declared duly elected ; while *Papillion* and *Dubois* were left to seek their remedy at law.

On the 27th July, the citizens petitioned the Court of Aldermen that *Papillion* and *Dubois* might be sworn in as Sheriffs for the year ensuing, and the Court returned them the following ungracious answer,—

“ Gentlemen,

“ This Court has considered your petition and will take  
“ care that such persons shall take the office of Sheriffs  
“ upon them as are duly elected according to law, and  
“ the antient customs of this City ; and, in this and all  
“ other things, this Court will endeavour to maintain the  
“ rights and privileges of the Chair, and of the whole  
“ City ; and wherein ye think we do otherwise, the law  
“ must judge between us.”

*Mr. Box*, it appears, being sensible that the manner of his election could not be legally justified, prudently declined serving the office of Sheriff, and paid the accustom'd fine of exemption. A new election, therefore, became necessary for which a Common-hall was summoned, and *Mr. Peter Birch\** was chosen ; he and *Mr. North* were then sworn before the Lord Mayor.

Thus terminated a transaction which shows that the Court of that period, when determined to carry a point, spared neither violence nor injustice, and which, afterwards, gave rise to the unjustifiable attack upon the City charter and liberties, by the issuing of the writ of *quo warranto*, of which more detailed mention is made in another part of this volume.†

*Sir John Moore* died in 1702, and was interred in the church of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East ; the following epitaph,

\* Burnet's History of his Own Time. Burnet, by mistake, calls him Rich.

† See page 129.

which contains some other particulars respecting his life, will shew how justly he merited the eulogiums bestowed on him for his charity and benevolence.

“ In a vault, near this place, is deposited the body of  
 “ *Sir John Moore, Knt.* sometime Lord Mayor of London,  
 “ one of the representatives of this City in Parliament,  
 “ and President of Christ’s Hospital ; who, for his great  
 “ and exemplary loyalty to the Crown, was empowered by  
 “ King Charles II. to bear, on a canton, one of the lions  
 “ of England, as an augmentation to his arms. Who,  
 “ out of a christian zeal for good works, founded and en-  
 “ dowed a free-school at Appleby, in Leicestershire, his  
 “ native county,\* and was a good benefactor to the wor-  
 “ shipful Company of Grocers ; to the several hospitals of  
 “ this City ; to his own relations in general ; and to this  
 “ parish. He departed this life the 2d of June, 1702,  
 “ aged 82.”

### JOHN SHEFFIELD, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

“ That wit, which, or in council, or in fight,  
 “ Still met the emergence, and determin’d right.”

*Pope's Odyssey*, book xiv.

The family of *Sheffield* was eminent, so far back as the reign of Henry III., in the person of *Sir Robert Sheffield, Knt.*, who, by Felicia, his wife, daughter and heir of Terneby, had Robert, his son, who married Anne, daughter and co-heir of *Sir Simon Goure*, and had issue, Thomas, who died S.P., and *Robert Sheffield*, grandfather of Edmund, created first *Baron Sheffield*, in the first year of Edward VI. His grandson Edmund, who greatly distinguished himself in the reigns of *Queen Elizabeth*, of *James I.*, and *Charles I.*, was, by the latter, advanced to

\* This corrects the error committed by Strype, who says he was a native of Stretton, in Derbyshire.

the dignity of *Earl of Mulgrave*, in Yorkshire.\* His great grandson was John, the subject of the present memoir.

He became one of the most eminent noblemen of his day, appeared in various places of honour and trust, and was advanced to a degree of dignity beyond all his predecessors; being created *Marquis of Normanby*, in the sixth year of William and Mary, and in 1703 the second of Queen Anne, *Duke of Normanby and Duke of Buckinghamshire*.†

At the breaking out of the second Dutch war in 1672, he went to sea as a volunteer under the *Duke of York*, and behaved with so much gallantry at the battle of Solebay, that, on his return to London, the King gave him the command of the Royal Katharine, the best second-rate ship then in the navy; and it is not a little curious, that notwithstanding this, we find him, in the ensuing year, though at sea, yet acting in the post and with the commission of a Colonel, having himself raised a regiment of foot, to serve with the forces sent under the command of *Marshal de Schomberg*.

The Duke was a man of great literary attainments, and was author of several works, in prose and in verse, which were published shortly after his death. *Walpole*, in his catalogue of noble authors, speaks in rather slighting terms of these productions, as he says, “ It is certain, that ‘ his Grace’s compositions in prose have nothing extraordinary in them; his poetry is most indifferent, and the ‘ greatest part of both is already fallen into total neglect.’ ” This opinion, however, must be received with caution, as it is well known, that when *Horace Walpole* took the critical lash in hand, he laid it on unsparingly. The Duke successively filled the offices of Chamberlain to James II., Privy Seal, and afterwards President of the Council to Queen Anne. He died in 1720, leaving one

\* Banks’s *Dormant and Extinct Baronage*, vol. iv.

† Beatson’s *Political Index*.

son, who died when quite a youth, and with whom the title became extinct.

His Grace, while *Earl of Mulgrave*, was elected a Member of the Grocers' Company; and, in 1684, was chosen Master for the year ensuing.

### ERASMUS DRYDEN.

In the journals of the Grocers' Company there is an entry, dated the 14th of May, 1688, in which, mention is made of *Erasmus Dryden*, "who for many years has used 'the mystery of Grocerie.'" As there is nothing remarkable in the life of this individual, I should not have inserted his name here, had I not ascertained that he was the father of *John Dryden*, the poet. This fact is of itself sufficient to entitle *Mr. Erasmus Dryden* to a place among the worthies of the Grocers' Company. He was the third son of *Sir Erasmus Dryden*, of Canon's Ashby, in the county of Northampton, the first baronet of that ancient family, and married Mary, daughter of the *Rev. Henry Pickering*, by whom he had fourteen children, viz. four sons, John, the poet, Erasmus, Henry, and James, and ten daughters.\*

### SIR JOHN CUTLER, BART.

"On rend quelquefois justice bien tard."

*Voltaire. Essay on the Emperor Julian.*

There is no part of the work I have undertaken, to which I feel myself so incompetent to do justice, as the vindication of *Sir John Cutler's* memory from the obloquy and calumnies by which it has been assailed for nearly a century and half. In endeavouring to refute the assertions of a man like *Pope*, I am conscious that I have no light task to perform; but, as I shall adduce nothing in defence

\* Malone's Life of Dryden.

of *Sir John Cutler*, which is not susceptible of proof, I trust I shall succeed in removing, at least, a part of the prejudice which has been created against him by a poet, who, in the words of his eulogist, *Johnson*, “ was sometimes wanton in his attacks,” and many of whose efforts “ exhibit nothing but cool malignity.”\* Although the satire in question is familiar to most readers, I have thought it best to insert it here, in order to place the “ bane and antidote” by the side of each other, and thus give the reader an opportunity of judging for himself. It forms a part of *Pope’s* third epistle, addressed to *Lord Bathurst*, on the use of riches.

“ His grace’s fate, sage Cutler could foresee,  
 “ And well, he thought, advis’d him, *live like me*.  
 “ As well, his grace reply’d, like you, Sir John?  
 “ That I can do when all I have is gone!  
 “ Resolve me, reason, which of these is worse,  
 “ Want, with a full or with an empty purse?  
 “ Thy life more wretched, Cutler, was confess’d;  
 “ Arise, and tell me, was thy death more bless’d?  
 “ Cutler saw tenants break, and houses fall,  
 “ For very want he could not build a wall.  
 “ His only daughter in a stranger’s pow’r,  
 “ For very want he could not pay a dow’r.  
 “ A few grey hairs his rev’rend temples crown’d;  
 “ ’Twas very want that sold them for two pound.  
 “ What! e’en deny’d a cordial at his end,  
 “ Banish’d the doctor, and expell’d the friend?  
 “ What but a want, which you, perhaps, think mad  
 “ Yet numbers feel, the want of what he had?  
 “ Cutler and Brutus, dying, both exclaim,  
 “ Virtue and wealth, what are ye but a name?”

All this is extremely bitter; and, if founded on fact, would stamp *Sir John Cutler* as one of the basest and most loathsome characters that ever lived; and it is to be lamented that *Pennant*, whose good-nature might have taught him better, should give additional currency to the calumny, by dwelling on it twice in his *Account of London*, and, without taking any trouble to inquire into the

\* Lives of the Poets, vol. iii. p. 134 and 136.

truth, speaking of *Sir John* as “the notorious,” and as “a character so stigmatized for avarice.”

I shall now “a round unvarnished tale deliver,” which, I trust, will demonstrate that the charges of the poet and of the antiquary are unfounded.

*Sir John Cutler's* name derives no lustre from his ancestors, as he came of a family whose descent or whose arms are not to be traced at the Heralds' College. His father, *Thomas Cutler*, likewise a member of the Grocers' Company, was engaged in commercial pursuits; but whether *Sir John* was his eldest son, or whether he inherited any fortune from him, I have been unable to discover. *Sir John* was established in London as a merchant, and, in that capacity, attained great celebrity, as well as wealth; and his opinions, it appears, were respected and esteemed, for *Pepys*, a man of acute observation and insight into the characters of individuals, makes the following mention of him:—“ 23d January 1662. *Mr. Grant* “ and I to a coffee-house, where *Sir John Cutler* was; “ and he did fully make out that the trade of England “ is as great as ever it was, only in more hands; and that “ of all trades there is a greater number than ever there “ was, by reason of men's taking more prentices. *His* “ *discourse was well worth hearing.*”\*

*Sir John's* attachment to his legitimate sovereign, and to the ancient institutions of his country, induced him to take an active part in the measures adopted in the City for bringing about the Restoration, by promoting the subscriptions raised for the use of *Charles II.* His important services on the occasion were duly appreciated by the King, who showed his sense of them by creating him a Baronet in November 1660. At a later period, he obtained a grant of arms from the Heralds' College, attached to which is the following pedigree of his family, extracted from *Le Neve's MS. Pedigrees of Baronets,*† and which is considered an official document.

\* Diary, vol. i. page 367.

† Vol. iii. in the College of Arms.

## CUTLER.

Sir John Cutler, of London, Knight and Baronet,  $\frac{9}{12}$ , 1660, had a grant of arms 27th March 1693, in the fifth year of our Sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, by Thomas St. George.\*

Eliz. daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Foot, of London, Knight and Baronet, buried in St. Benedict Gras-church-street, Lon-don.

Sir John Cutler, ci-tizen and Grocer of London, created Baronet *ut supra*. He dyed 15th April 1693, being eighty-five years old, and was buried in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

First wife, Elisa, daughter of Sir Thomas Tipping, of Wheatfield, Com. Oxon, Knight.

Elizabeth, daughter, married to Sir William Portman, of Orchard, Somer-sett, Bart. She dyed, without issue living, afore Sir John Cutler's death; he gave for portion £30,000.

Elizabeth, only daughter and heir, married to Charles Bodville Robartes, Earle of Radnor. She dyed, without issue, in 1696.

Here is, at once, a refutation of a daughter

“ in a stranger's pow'r,  
“ For very want, he could not pay a dow'r.”

And, further, to show that Pope's observation could not apply to the daughter by the second wife, I have ascertained that *Sir John Cutler* bought the magnificent mansion and estate called Wimpole-Hall, in Cambridgeshire, which he settled upon her, on her marriage with the *Earl of Radnor*.†

\* Clarenceux, King of Arms.

† Lyson's *Magna Britannica*, vol. ii. part i. page 287. Cambridge. Sir J. C. bought it of *Thomas Chichley*. It is now the property of *Lord Hardwicke*.

Having thus rescued him from the charge of being an unnatural father, let us now observe upon what grounds the vice of *avarice* is so pertinaciously affixed to him.

I have already stated that the Grocers' Company were bound by the strongest ties of gratitude to *Sir John Cutler*,\* not only for his munificence in building, at his sole charge, a court-room and parlour after the fire of London, and in contributing, at various times by subscriptions, towards extricating them from their pecuniary difficulties, but for their very existence, which is owing to his readiness in serving the office of Master, and in undertaking the management of their affairs, at a period when all the members shrunk from the charge, as one involving risk and responsibility, besides a great loss of time. All which savours of anything but parsimony; and, to convey to the reader, in the original words, the feelings of the members of the Company at that time, I shall here transcribe the resolution passed by the Court of Assistants on the 27th January 1669:—

“ In consideration of *Sir John Cutler's* extraordinary  
“ kindness and bountifull intendments to the Company,  
“ expressed in the progress and forwardness of his stately  
“ and sumptuous buildings in the garden, undertaken at  
“ his sole charge, and of his own accord and inclination,  
“ in this time of exigency and desolation, for the Com-  
“ pany's future benefit and commodiousness, It is thought  
“ fit and agreed, that his Statue and Picture be erected  
“ and placed, at the charge of this Company, in the upper  
“ and lower rooms of his buildings, in gratefull acknow-  
“ ledgment and memorial of his singular bounty and  
“ affection to the Company, and to remain as a lasting  
“ monument of his unexampled kindness. The execution  
“ thereof to be left to the Assistants, any five of them  
“ to form a Committee, and one Warden to be of the  
“ number.” An inscription was likewise placed in the  
Hall, of which the following is a copy:—

\* See pages 31 and 118.

“ SIR JOHN CUTLER, Knight and Baronet, a worthy member of this Company, having fined for Sheriff and Alderman, nigh forty years since, was chosen and held Master-Warden, *Annis 165<sup>2</sup>*, and did, immediately after the dreadful fire, *Anno 1666*, at his own proper charge, erect (out of its ashes) the fair pile of building, now the great parlour, and entertaining-room over it; and again was chosen and held Master-Warden *Annis 168<sup>5</sup>*. And also, in kindness to the Company, *Annis 168<sup>6</sup>*, was Assistant, and *locum tenens* to the Right Honourable, their then Master-Warden.\* And this present year 1688, in their greatest exigence, (when others, whose turn it was, declined them,) consented to be chosen the fourth time their Master-Warden. Under whose happy conduct the Company’s revenue hath been settled, (as a most righteous sanction,) to secure the due payment of their yearly charities.”

This inscription has lately been restored ; and I cannot here refrain from paying my tribute of gratitude to the Court of Assistants for their good taste in ordering Sir John’s statue, which had suffered from the ravages of time, to be repaired and replaced in the Hall, and thus fulfilling the original intentions of their predecessors in 1669, who intended it as “ a lasting monument” of *Sir John Cutler’s* services.

The love and encouragement of science are indubitable marks of a liberal mind, and I have now before me a proof of *Sir John Cutler’s* generous support of it :—“ In 1664, *Sir John Cutler*, having founded a mechanic lecture at Gresham College, with a salary of fifty pounds a-year, settled it upon *Mr. Hooke*, the professor of geometry, for life ; the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society being entrusted to appoint both the subject and number of lectures.”†

A further confirmation of this fact occurs in a letter, written by *Henry Oldenburg*, of the Royal Society, to the

\* Sir Thomas Chichley.

† Ward’s Lives of the Professors of Gresham College.

celebrated *Mr. Boyle*, in Nov. 1664, of which the following is an extract:—

“ The Society did, yesterday, chuse *Sir John Cutler* an honorary member; and ordered, that he having declared his resolution to settle upon *Mr. Hook*, during his life, an annual stipend of fifty pounds, and to refer to the Society the direction of the kind of employment the stipendiat shall be put upon, should have solemn thanks returned to him for this singular favour expressed to one of their members, and for the respect and confidence showed to the whole body; and that *Sir William Petty*, *Dr. Wilkins*, *Dr. Whistler*, and *Captain Graunt*, should attend the said *Sir John Cutler* in the name of the Society, and to represent to him what a sense they have of his generosity, which they have more reason to value, as being the first donation they have been entrusted with of this kind, and which they hope will procure a leading example to others.”\*

*Nightingale*,† speaking of the church of St. Margaret, Westmiuster, states that “ it had been repeatedly repaired, particularly in the years 1641, 1651, and 1682, when the north gallery was rebuilt at the sole charge of *Sir John Cutler*, Knight and Baronet, for the benefit of the poor.”‡ Surely, these are not the acts of the man who—

“ \_\_\_\_\_ saw tenants break, and houses fall,  
“ For very want he could not build a wall.”

*Strype*, in his edition of *Stowe's Survey*, speaks of him thus:—“ One of the wealthiest citizens of later times, and a great benefactor to the publick, (particularly his buildings in Grocers' Hall, and the College of Physicians, since the great fire,) was *Sir John Cutler*, Knight, Grocer.”

Sir John's will, dated the 4th July 1690, is a further

\* *Boyle's Works*, vol. v. p. 322.

† *Beauties of England and Wales*, vol. x. part iv. p. 416.

‡ He also gave an annual sum of £37 to the parish, for their relief.

evidence of the goodness of his heart, if any evidence of that fact were wanting.

After bequeathing legacies to public charities and to more than fifty individuals, and munificent provisions to his servants and their children, he has this very remarkable passage :—“Also, I give and bequeath, and hereby direct and appoint that, my said executor, “(Edmund Boulter, Esq.) shall distribute two thousand “pounds amongst such of my friends or relations as “he shall imagine that I might have neglected or forgotten to mention in this my last will, in such proportion “and proportions as he shall think fit.” The whole of the will, in short, breathes a kindly and truly religious spirit, which never found place in the bosom of a miser.

In a work recently published\* the author remarks that “Sir John Cutler, whom the rancid satires of Pope, and the ironical representations of Pennant, have damned to immortality, as a complete picture of avarice, has been unjustly stigmatised; and, were the particulars of his life known and fairly detailed, his character would be seen to be very far removed from that disgustingly iniquitous and unblushing parsimony which those writers have attributed to it.” Such was my impression on the first perusal of Pope’s satire: and, as I had engaged to commit to paper some account of the Company of which this calumniated individual was a member, and of which I may truly call him the preserver, I was, naturally, anxious to rescue him, as far as I was able, from the obloquy thus wantonly attached to his name. I feel that the limits of my work have prevented my doing the subject due justice: but it affords me some satisfaction to have been able to collect sufficient evidence to remove the stigma which malice has affixed to his reputation. Should the subject be hereafter taken up on a more extended scale, by an abler and more experienced pen, Sir John Cutler’s

\* *Londiniana*, by E. W. Braley, vol. iv. p. 138.

character will shine forth in its full brightness, and be established in a way to prove him to have been an ornament to the City of London, and not a reproach, as the writers quoted have made the world believe. How truly does the effect of calumny, as detailed by *Beaumarchais*, apply to the case before us!—“ *La calomnie, Monsieur ?*  
 “ ....... j’ai vu les plus honnêtes gens près d’en être  
 “ accablés. Croyez qu’il n’y a pas de plâtre mechanceté,  
 “ pas d’horreur, pas de conte absurde qu’on ne fasse  
 “ adopter aux oisifs d’une grande ville en s’y prenant bien,  
 “ et nous avons ici des gens d’une adresse !”\*

**WILLIAM THE THIRD, BY THE GRACE OF GOD,  
 KING OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, FRANCE, AND  
 IRELAND, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, ETC.**

*His Majesty King William III.*, in the first year of his accession to the throne of England, graciously condescended to become a member of the Grocers' Company, and honoured them still further by consenting to preside as their SOVEREIGN MASTER, for the year 1689. The proceedings of the Court of Assistants, relative to His Majesty's election, are detailed in another part of this volume:† but the record of his admission is registered in the following terms:—

“ Here follows the instrument of His Majesty's Election  
 “ and Freedom, presented to his Majesty, at Whitehall,  
 “ on the Thursday following, in a gold box, by the War-  
 “ dens; upon which His Majesty, returning them hearty  
 “ thanks, was graciously pleased to confer the honour of  
 “ Knighthood on *Ralph Box, Esq.*, then Master Warden,  
 “ and afterwards they and the members attending them

\* *Le Barbier de Seville*, act ii. sc. 8.

† See page 142.

“ were entertained by the Lord Chamberlain at his own  
“ house, at a very splendid dinner.

## RECORD OF HIS MAJESTY'S ELECTION.

“ *Ad curiam assistentium conventorum in aulâ Aromatariorum in hanc solennem & felicem occasionem, vicesimo secundo die Octobris 1689, annoque regni Gulielmi et Mariæ, Regis et Reginæ primo.*

“ *Carolus vere honoratissimus Comes de Dorset and Middlesex, Regi Magistrati Cameris hodierno die mandata Regia enarrabat, custodibus et assistentibus hujus Societatis serenissimum & potentissimum Regem Gulielmum, Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ, sumnum secundum Deum moderatorem, ex speciali erga Aromatariorum societatem benignitate assumere sibi velle titulum supremi eorum Magistri et in eorum Albo inscribi.*

“ *Quæ propter Custodes et Assistentes unâ voce et uno animo, Gratias redditunt sacræ Regiæ Majestati quod Magister Aromatariorum vocari voluit et (Regiâ per missione prius habitâ) humilime elegerunt eundem Regem in eorum supremum Magistrum submisso rogantes ut electionem hanc in bonam partem acciperet. Quodque vera copia hujusce adscriptionis (pyxide aurâ inclusâ), una cum gratiis totius Societatis redditis per manus Custodum Illustrissimo Principi offerantur.*

“ *Sic humilime recordatur,  
W. Ravenhill, Cler. ejusdem Societat.*

In the following year His Majesty granted to the Company his warrant for the delivery to them, yearly, of a brace and a half of fat bucks from Enfield Chace : it is thus entered in their books: —

“ Our most Gracious Sovereign Lord William the 3d, having vouchsafed to become Supreme Master of the Grocers' Company, was graciously pleased to bestow upon them, as a signal favour

“ of his Royal Bounty, a brace and half of fat  
 “ bucks, to be yearly killed and delivered to them,  
 “ out of Enfield Chace, by warrant under His  
 “ Majesty’s Royal Sign Manual, which here follows  
 “ verbatim. The original, delivered to the Right  
 “ Honourable Sir Rowland Gwynne, Chief-ranger,  
 “ to be there entered in their book as a lasting  
 “ authority for the same, to bee yearly done ac-  
 “ cordingly.\*

“ WILLIAM R.

“ Our will and pleasure is that you kill and deliver to  
 “ the Wardens and Commonalty of the Company of  
 “ Grocers, London, from time to time, yearly, and every  
 “ year, in the season, a brace and half of fatt bucks, and  
 “ for so doing this shall be your warrant: Given at our  
 “ Court, at Whitehall, the 24th day of March 1690, in  
 “ the second year of our reign.

“ By His Majesty’s Command,  
 “ NOTTINGHAM.

“ To the Ranger of Enfield Chase,  
 “ for the time being.”

“ *Grocers’ Hall.*  
 “ *July the 31st 1690.*

“ I have received the said warrant to be soe  
 “ entered, and shall take care it be done.

“ R. GWYNNE.”

CHARLES, EARL OF DORSET AND  
 MIDDLESEX.

“ He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one ;  
 “ Exceeding wise, fair spoken, and persuading.”

*Henry VIII. Act IV. Scene 2.*

*Charles Earl of Dorset*, eldest son of *Richard Earl of*

\* In 1702, on the accession of Queen Anne, the Company endeavoured to obtain a renewal of the grant, but without success.

**Dorset,\*** born on the 24th January 1637, was one of the best bred men of the age. At the restoration he was chosen one of the members for East Grinstead, and distinguished himself whilst he was in the House of Commons. The sprightliness of his wit, and a most exceeding good nature, recommended him very early to the intimacy of *King Charles II.*, and those of the greatest eminence in the Court; but his mind being rather turned to books and conversation, than to what more immediately concerned the public business, he totally declined it, though, as *Bishop Burnet* observes,† the King courted him for a favourite. “But when the honour and safety of his country demanded his assistance, he readily entered into the most active parts of life; and underwent the greatest dangers, with a constancy of mind, which shewed that he had not only read the rules of philosophy, but understood the practice of them.”‡ He served as a volunteer under *His Royal Highness the Duke of York*, in the first Dutch war, in 1665, when the Dutch Admiral, *Opdam*, was blown up, and above thirty capital ships were taken and destroyed; and his making a song the night before the engagement, carried with it so sedate a presence of mind, and such unusual gallantry, that it was particularly taken notice of; and his behaviour distinguished him to be a true heir to the virtues and courage of his ancestors.— From hence, during the remaining part of *King Charles's* reign, he continued to live in honourable leisure; he was one of the Lords of the Bedchamber to the King, and possessed not only of his master's favour, but, in a great degree, his familiarity; never leaving the Court but when he was sent to that of France, on commissions and embassies of compliment, as if the King designed to shew the French, who would be thought the politest nation, that one of the finest gentlemen in Europe was his subject.

\* Collins's Peerage. Edition 1756, page 775.

† Burnet's History of His Own Times.

‡ Prior's Epist. ded. to his Poems.

Being possessed of the estate of his uncle *Lionel Earl of Middlesex*, who died in 1674, he was created Earl of that county, and, in 1677, succeeded his father as *Earl of Dorset* and as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Sussex. His lordship, wishing to strengthen the Protestant interest, was one of the principal peers who had the management of affairs till the *Prince of Orange's* arrival: \* and, in the debates in Parliament, argued and voted “For the vacancy of the “ throne ; and that the *Prince and Princess of Orange* “ should be declared King and Queen of England, &c.” When their Majesties had accepted the crown of these realms, his Lordship was, the next day, sworn of their Privy-Council, and declared Chamberlain of their household: “a place which he eminently adorned, by the “ grace of his person, the fineness of his breeding, and the “ knowledge and practice of what was decent and magni-“ ficent.” †

In 1691, having previously received the freedom, he became Master of the Grocers' Company, on which occasion the records inform us that, “for the honour and “ grandeur of the Company, £6 should be allowed to “ purchase two new gowns for the under officers.”

The record of his admission, which was presented to him in a silver box, was thus expressed:—

“ *Ad curiam Assistentium conventorum in aulâ Aro-“ matariorum die vicesimo secundo Octobris 1689,*  
“ *annoque regni Gulielmi et Mariæ, Regis & Reginæ“ primo.*

“ *Carolus vere honoratissimus Comes de Dorset et“ Middlesex Regi Magistratiâ cameris admissus est per“ custodes hic (sedente curiâ) in fraternitatem hujus“ Societatis, quam ejusdem Societatis in se benevolentiam“ prädictus Comes de Dorset, &c. grato animo accepit.*

“ *Sic humilime recordatur,*  
“ *G. Ravenhill, Cler. ejusd. Societat.*”

\* Burnet's History of His Own Times.

† Collins's Peerage.

On the 3d of February, in the same year, his Lordship was elected one of the Knights of the most noble Order of the Garter, and his installation took place at Windsor on the 24th of the same month. On the 29th January 1705, the Earl died, and was buried in the family vault at Withiam. He was succeeded in his title by his eldest son, *Lionel*, afterwards created *Duke of Dorset*.

## THE HONOURABLE THOMAS COVENTRY.

*The Honourable Thomas Coventry* was brother to *William, fifth Earl of Coventry*, descended from *John Coventry*, Mercer and Sheriff of London, A.D. 1416, in the reign of Henry the Fifth.\* He was a member of the Grocers' Company, and served the office of Master in the year 1740.

## WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM.

“ Recorded honours shall gather round his monument, and  
“ thicken o'er him. It is a solid fabric, and will support the  
“ laurels that adorn it.”

*Eulogium of Lord Chatham. Junius, Letter 54.*

*William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham*, was the son of *Robert Pitt*, of Boconnock, Esq. who served in parliament, in the year 1713 for the Borough of Old Sarum, and in 1722 for Oakhampton. He was appointed one of the Clerks of Green Cloth to George II. then *Prince of Wales*; and, departing this life in May 1727, was buried at Blandford St. Mary's, in Dorsetshire. His younger son, the subject of the present memoir, who was educated at Eton, served in parliament for the Borough of Old Sarum in the 9th parliament of Great Britain; the Port

\* *Collins's Peerage*, vol. iv. page 196.

of Seaford in the 10th, the Borough of Aldborough in the 11th, and the City of Bath in the 12th till he was advanced to the Peerage. In February 1737 he was appointed a Groom of the Bedchamber to his Royal Highness *Frederick Prince of Wales*, and, resigning his place in 1745, he was constituted in the following year Joint Vice-Treasurer of Ireland; and, on the 6th of May 1746, Treasurer and Pay-Master of the Army and was sworn a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

He opposed the measures of the ministry in parliament with an eloquence and force of reasoning seldom equalled, for which her grace *Sarah Dowager Duchess of Marlborough*, left him a legacy of £10,000 "upon account, as "her will expresses it, of his merit in the noble defence "he has made for the support of the laws of England, and "to prevent the ruin of his country."

Having resigned his post of Paymaster-General of the Forces, he was, on the 4th December 1756, appointed Secretary of State for the Southern Department, in the room of the *Right Honourable Henry Fox*, which office he held until October 1761, (except the small interval from April 9th 1757, to June 29th the same year,) with such honour to himself, such glory to the nation, and so greatly to the satisfaction of his Sovereign and the people in general, as never any minister in this kingdom before experienced. Our successes abroad during his patriotic administration are too deeply engraved on the minds of his countrymen ever to be erased or to need much mention here: let it suffice then to observe, that all the officers, employed through his influence by sea and land justified his clear and true discernment: under his auspices, *Amherst and Boscawen* reduced Cape Breton; *Wolfe and Saunders* triumphed at Quebec; Goree and Senegal were subjugated to the crown of Great Britain; the French were ruined in the East Indies, their armies defeated in Europe; *Belleisle* was rent from their monarchy, their coasts were insulted and ravaged, their fleets destroyed, their trade annihilated,

and those ancient enemies of these kingdoms reduced to a state of bankruptcy ; and that by his wise plan the Havannah was torn from the Spaniards after his resignation.

He resigned the seals of his office of Secretary of State on the 5th October 1761, and during the period that he bore no share in the administration, his behaviour displayed an inflexible integrity and the greatest love of his country, particularly in the famous affair of *General Warrants*, and that of the Repeal of the American Stamp-Act, on which he spoke with such eloquence, solid judgement and conviction, as could not fail to silence his opponents, and to prove that the slavery of our Colonies would be followed by our own destruction.

His Majesty, at length, conscious of the weakness and unpopularity of the *Rockingham administration*, and induced by a thorough knowledge of Mr. Pitt's great abilities and by the general wishes of the people, was graciously pleased once more to summon him to his assistance in the arduous affairs of government, and to confer new honours upon him. On the 30th July 1766, His Majesty granted to him and to his heirs male, the dignity of a Viscount and Earl of Great Britain, by the name, style, and title of *Viscount Pitt, of Burton-Pynsent*, in the county of Somerset and *Earl of Chatham* in the county of Kent ; and was pleased to deliver to his Lordship the custody of the Privy Seal, which high office his Lordship held until the 2d November 1768, and it was the last public employment he filled.

It cannot be denied that the acceptance of a peerage lost him much of his popularity, which he never totally recovered ; an effect which does not seem founded in reason. His death on the 11th May 1778, the consequence of his eloquent efforts in the house of Lords a few weeks before, on the question of the American Colonies, is well known to all the world. For several years before his death his Lordship was so violently afflicted with the gout that he was not only incapable of attending to his own private affairs, but was, in general, confined to his chamber, yet so

great was his love for his country's welfare, that, whenever any question of great moment was to be debated in the house of Peers, his Lordship would attend his duty though he was obliged to be wrapped in flannels and was unable to stand without the aid of crutches.

In April 1757 the *Earl of Chatham* became a member of the Grocers' Company, and the copy of his admission was delivered to His Lordship with the following note :—

“ My Lord,

“ In testimony of the grateful sense which  
 “ the Grocers' Company entertain of your noble efforts to  
 “ stem the general torrent of corruption, and lessen the  
 “ extent of ministerial influence, and to revive, by your  
 “ example, the almost extinguished love of virtue and  
 “ our country, the Court of Assistants do themselves the  
 “ honour to present you with the freedom of their Com-  
 “ pany, and have ordered their clerk to attend you with  
 “ the copy, taken out of their Book of Admission.

“ ALDERMAN GEO. NELSON, *Master.*

“ SHUTE ADAMS,

“ THOMAS HEATH, }  
 “ JOHN STRACEY, } *Wardens.*

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY BILSON LEGGE.

“ A man of matchlesse might,  
 “ and wondrous wit to manage high affaers.”

*Spenser. Faerie Queene.*

*The Right Honourable Henry Bilson Legge*, fourth son of *William the first Earl of Dartmouth*, was born on the 29th March 1708.\* He represented the Borough of

\* Collins's Peerage, vol. viii.

Eastlow in Cornwall, in part of the 8th parliament of Great Britain, at which time he was a Commissioner of the Navy, and, soon after, Joint-Secretary of the Treasury. He represented the Borough of Orford in Suffolk, in three succeeding parliaments, and was, afterwards, chosen Knight of the Shire for the county of Hants. On the 16th July 1752, he had a grant of the office of Surveyor-General of all His Majesty's Woods, in the lands of the ancient inheritance of the Crown on the north and south sides of the river Trent, at which time he resigned his place of Secretary to the Treasury. In 1745 he was constituted one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and in 1746 a Lord of the Treasury. In 1748 he was appointed Envoy-extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the King of Prussia, and, on his return, in the following year, was named Treasurer of the Navy. He became Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of His Majesty's Exchequer in April 1754, and resigned the office in the November of the same year.

He was again appointed to those great offices in November 1756, from which he was removed in April 1757, and was succeeded therein by *Lord Mansfield*; but the nation in general, shewing their regret thereat, His Majesty was pleased, on the 2d July, the same year, to constitute him, once more, Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer, and one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. He continued in those offices to the universal satisfaction of all parties, till, upon a change of ministry in 1762, he was *turned out*, as he chose to express it, and the *Lord Viscount Barrington* appointed in his room. His health for some time sensibly declining, he retired to the sweets of domestic happiness and private friendship, and departed this life on the 21st August 1764. His death was sincerely lamented by all good and virtuous men, and all true lovers of their country.

It was after his removal from office, in 1757, that he was elected a Member of the Grocers' Company. He was the friend and coadjutor of the great *Mr. Pitt*, afterwards *Lord Chatham*, whom he supported in all his endeavours to check

the Whig faction,\* whose intrigues, at that period, distracted the nation. They were elected the same day, and the freedom of the Company was accompanied by the following letter to both, written at the unanimous request of the Court of Assistants:—

“ Sir,

“ In testimony of the grateful sense which the  
 “ Grocers’ Company entertain of your noble efforts to stem  
 “ the general torrent of corruption, and lessen the extent  
 “ of ministerial influence, and to revive, by your example,  
 “ the almost extinguished love of virtue and our country,  
 “ the Court of Assistants do themselves the honour to pre-  
 “ sent you with the freedom of their Company, and have  
 “ ordered their clerk to attend you with the copy, taken  
 “ out of their Book of Admission;”

ALDERMAN GEO. NELSON, *Master.*

SHUTE ADAMS,

THOMAS HEATH,

JOHN STRACEY,

*Wardens.*

16th Day of April, 1767.

### HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS EDWARD AUGUSTUS, DUKE OF YORK.

The details of the life of this Royal Member of the Grocers’ Company are so well known, that it would be superfluous to repeat them here. It is sufficient to state that, in 1760, Prince Edward Augustus K.G., next brother to his late Majesty George the Third, was created Duke of York and Albany, by his grand-father George the Second. He died, without issue, on the 6th September 1767, at Monaco in Italy, and was interred at Westminster the November following.†

\* Bisset’s Reign of George the Third, vol. i.

† Bolton’s Extinct Peerage, page 315.

In June 1761, he was presented with the freedom of the Grocers' Company, which was delivered to his Royal Highness in a gold box of the value of one hundred guineas. The event is thus recorded in the Company's books;

**JOHN LANE, Master.**

**DANIEL BAYNE,**

**SAMUEL WOLLASTON,** } *Wardens.*  
**BOYCE TREE,**

“ His Royal Highness Edward Augustus, Duke of York  
“ and Albany, Earl of Ulster, Knight of the Most Ho-  
“ nourable Order of the Garter, one of His Majesty's  
“ Privy Council, and One of the Rear-Admirals of the  
“ Blue Squadron of His Majesty's fleet, having most gra-  
“ ciously condescended to accept the freedom of the War-  
“ dens and Commonalty of the Mystery of the Worshipful  
“ Company of Grocers of the City of London, was ac-  
“ cordingly admitted the 17th day of June 1761, pur-  
“ suant to the unanimous resolution of the Court of Assis-  
“ tants, held the same day.

“ **JOHN ALEXANDER, Clerk.**”

## THE RIGHT HON. ARTHUR ONSLOW.

“ The gentleman is learn'd, a most rare speaker,  
“ to Nature none more bound ; his learning such  
“ that he may furnish and instruct great teachers,  
“ and never seek aid out of himself.”

*Shakspeare. Henry VIII. Act. I. Scene 1.*

*Arthur Onslow*, was son of *Foot Onslow Esq.* and grandson to *Sir Arthur Onslow Bart.* He was chosen representative for Guildford in the year 1719, and also in the succeeding parliament. In January 1726 he took his seat for the county of Surrey, and, having been unanimously

\* Collins's Peerage, vol. vii. edit. 1779.

elected Speaker of the House of Commons, was approved of by His Majesty on the 27th of that month. In July 1728 he was sworn one of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and, in 1729, appointed Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal to *Queen Caroline*. In 1734 he was constituted Treasurer of the Navy, but resigned that office in 1743. Such was the respect which the House of Commons entertained for his character and talents that they elected him Speaker for five consecutive parliaments; and, on his resignation of that honourable office in 1761, he received an unanimous vote of thanks from the House accompanied by an address to His Majesty "that he would " be graciously pleased to confer some signal mark of his " royal favour on the Speaker, for the great and eminent " services performed to his country for thirty-three years " and upwards, during which he had, with distinguished " ability and integrity, presided in the chair of that house." On the 20th of April 1761, the King granted him, in consequence, a pension of £3000 a-year out of the Civil-list revenue. In this year, after receiving the freedom of the City of London in a gold box, he was presented with that of the Grocers' Company, which he accepted with many kind expressions of thankfulness.

This worthy man and illustrious patriot died on the 17th February 1768 in the 77th year of his age and was buried at Thames-Ditton.

He married Anne, daughter of *James Bridges Esq.* of Thames-Ditton, and had one son and one daughter. His son *George Onslow* afterwards became *Lord Onslow and Cranley*, of which title he was the fourth peer.

### SIR JOHN PHILLIPS, BART.

*Sir John Phillips* of Picton-Castle in the county of Pembroke and of Clogyvarne, in the county of Caermarthen Bart. is a member of one of the oldest families in Wales, his descent being clearly traced from *Kadvor Vawr*, *Lord*

of *Blaene-hych*, mentioned in the division between his sons, A. D. 1084, who was buried in the Priory of Caermarthen.

*Sir John Phillips* was appointed in 1744 a Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, and represented in parliament the borough of Petersfield. In 1754 he was chosen Knight of the Shire for the county of Pembroke, and in 1761, was sworn a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. He received the freedom of the City of London, as a reward for his public services, and was admitted a member of the Grocers' Company in March 1761. *Sir John Phillips* died in June 1764 and was buried at Haverfordwest.

### GEORGE COOKE, ESQ. M.P.

*George Cooke Esq.* one of the Prothonotaries of the Court of Common Pleas and representative in parliament for the county of Middlesex, received the freedom of the City of London in 1761, at the same time with *Sir John Phillips, Bart.* The circumstances which induced the citizens to confer this honour upon them are thus recorded by *Maitland.\**

“ *Sir John Phillips Bart.* and Member of the House of Commons, having, at all times, and on all occasions, espoused the cause of liberty, and to show his firmness and independency, had thrown up the profitable place of a Lord of Trade and Plantations, rather than submit to the dictates of a minister, directing the minions of power to vote in the House of Commons, had, for some years, been a standing toast amongst the friends of public liberty, and the maintainers of the rights and privileges of his fellow-subjects; and he, having heartily joined with *Mr. George Cooke*, one of the Knights of the Shire for the county of Middlesex, in managing the business of the City of London, in the House of Com-

\* History of London, vol. ii. Appendix, page 34.

"mons, for some time past," a motion was made and carried, that they should be presented with the freedom of the City. *Mr. Cooke* was, consequently, elected a member of the Grocers' Company in March 1761.

### HIS MOST SERENE HIGHNESS THE HEREDITARY PRINCE OF BRUNSWICK - LUNENBURG.

" Fair flower of Knighthood, famed for noble blood,  
" For courtly grace and warlike hardihood."

*Bland. Edwy and Elgiva, Book I.*

*Charles William Ferdinand, Hereditary Prince of Wolfenbuttel-Bevern,* was the eldest son of *Charles* the reigning Duke of that State in 1764, by the *Princess Philippina Charlotta*, second sister to the then *King of Prussia*. The hereditary Prince became connected with England in the year mentioned, by marrying her Royal Highness the *Princess Augusta*, sister of his late Majesty *George III.* The degree of consanguinity between the family of the Prince and the Royal House of England was, previously, of the nearest kind, both being branches of the same house of *Brunswick*, the two lines of which, *Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel* and *Brunswick-Lunenburg* had the same common founder, viz. *Ernest the Confessor*, who first introduced the reformation into his dominions, and from whom sprung the *Dukes of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel, and the Electors of Hanover*.

*Prince Charles*, although only twenty-nine years of age at the time of his marriage, had already signalized himself in war. When the Hanoverians resumed their arms, in consequence of the infraction of the convention of Closter Seven on the part of the French, *Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick*, brother to the reigning Duke, was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. The hereditary Prince, then in his twenty-third year, joined the troops and behaved with the greatest gallantry. From

that time to the period of his arrival in England, he is stated to have taken part in no less than twenty-nine actions, in all of which he displayed great military science and bravery, and in the last of them narrowly escaped death. He had been twice before wounded ; once in the shoulder and afterwards in the leg (having his horse killed under him) ; but, in the battle alluded to, which he fought with *Count De Stainville*, near Friedburg, in 1763, and in which, after a brave resistance, he was unsuccessful, he received a musket ball in his side. He was transported from the field of battle successively to Homberg, Fritzler, and Munden, at which place the wound was opened. This operation, a most painful one, was succeeded by a fever occasioned by irritation arising from a splinter, and the Prince was for several days in great danger; but a strong constitution and skilful treatment saved him, and, in three weeks, he was declared to be convalescent. This was the last action in which he took part, as in less than three months after that event hostilities ceased.

His reception in England was enthusiastic, for he not only had been engaged in defending the hereditary dominions of the house of Hanover against the French, but he came for the purpose of espousing a Princess to whom the nation was peculiarly attached on account of her virtues and amiable character. The City of London, always foremost on occasions of this kind, presented addresses of congratulation on the Prince's arrival, to himself and to his royal bride, offering him at the same time the freedom of the City in a gold box of 150 guineas value. His Serene Highness selected the Grocers' Company as the one to which he wished to be attached, and his name was enrolled among the list of members on the 18th of October 1765, the record of his admission being presented to him in a gold box of the value of one hundred guineas. He is therein described as “a Prince who has rendered himself “glorious for his heroic actions, eminent for conjugal “affection to his most amiable consort, and every other “private virtue.”

## CHARLES PRATT, FIRST EARL CAMDEN.

“ It doth appear you are a worthy judge ;  
 “ You know the law—your exposition  
 “ Has been most sound.”

*Merchant of Venice. Act. II. Sc. 1.*

*Charles Pratt*, first *Earl Camden*, the son of *Sir John Pratt*, presided, for many years, in the Court of King's Bench. He was educated first at Eton and afterwards at King's College Cambridge.

After taking the two first degrees, which facilitated his call to the bar, he became a member of Lincoln's Inn and, emulating the example of his predecessors *Cowper*, *Talbot*, and *Somers*, and of his contemporaries *Yorke* and *Murray*, soon acquired a high reputation.\* After sitting for some time in the House of Commons, he rose in succession to all the great offices appertaining to his profession, and, as Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, he not only distinguished himself greatly, but rendered himself the most popular judge that had sat on the bench since the revolution, by his decision in the case of *John Wilkes*, in consequence of which a *general warrant* was declared to be unlawful. In 1765 he was created *Baron Camden*; in 1766 he became Lord Chancellor, but resigned soon after from an avowed opinion of the injustice of the American war. In 1782 he was President of the Council; in 1786 was created an Earl; and, unchanged by the favours of the Court, he, to his honour, persevered in his original principles to the last moment of his life, having contributed much to the success of the bill for explaining the law of libels, and expressed his decided opinion, “ that the jury “ was competent to decide both on law and fact.”

This illustrious man, for many years the friend and colleague of *William Pitt Earl of Chatham*, died April 18th 1794, in the 75th year of his age.

*Lord Camden* was author of two tracts; one on the writ

\* Index to the House of Lords.

of *Habeas Corpus*, the other in the case of *Doe on the demise of Hindsdon*, which contains a refutation of *Lord Mansfield's* argument in the case of *Wyndham versus Chetwynd*.

He was presented with the freedom of the Grocers' Company on the 24th February 1764, while Lord Chief Justice of His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, and accepted it with many expressions of regard and thankfulness.

### HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS WILLIAM HENRY, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER.

This Prince was the third son of *Frederick Prince of Wales*, father of his late Majesty King George III., and was born at Leicester-House on the 14th November 1743; he was baptized eleven days after by the name of *William Henry*.

At the marriage of the late *King George III.* and *Queen Charlotte* on the 8th September 1761, His Royal Highness walked on the Queen's left hand to and from the Chapel; and, having no right at that time, he not being a peer, to form a part of the public procession at the Coronation on the 22d of that month, he handed his mother, the *Princess Dowager of Wales*, who, with her younger children and attendants, made a lesser procession to and from Westminster Abbey. On the 27th of May 1762, His Royal Highness was elected a Knight of the Garter, and was installed at Windsor on the 25th September following, when the King and Queen honoured the solemnity with their presence.

A few days before His Royal Highness was of full age, His Majesty was pleased to grant to him and to the heirs male of H. R. H., the dignity of a Duke of the Kingdom of Great Britain, and of an Earl of the Kingdom of Ireland, by the names, styles, and titles, of *Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh, and Earl of Connaught*.

On the 29th of March 1765, His Royal Highness was

elected a member of the Worshipful Company of Grocers ; and the freedom, curiously written on vellum and blazoned with their arms and other decorations, presented to him in a gold box of the value of one hundred guineas.

### THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM PITT.

“ And shall not his memory to Britain be dear,  
“ Whose example with envy all nations behold ;  
“ A statesman unbiass'd by int'rest or fear,  
“ By power uncorrupted, untainted by gold ?”

*The Pilot that weathered the Storm.*

*William Pitt*, second son of *William first Earl of Chatham* and of *Lady Hester* only daughter of *Richard Grenville, Esq.* was born at Hayes in Kent, on the 28th of May 1759. He was educated at home under the immediate eye of his father, who, as he found him very early capable of receiving, imparted to him many of the principles which had guided his own political conduct, and, in other respects, paid so much attention to his education, that at fourteen he was found fully qualified for the university ; and, accordingly, at that age, he was entered at Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, where he distinguished himself by his application and by his success in attaining those branches of knowledge to which his studies were particularly directed ; nor have many young men of rank passed through the probation of the university with a higher character for morals, abilities, industry, and regularity. He was intended by his father for the bar and the senate, and his education was regulated in a manner to embrace both these objects. *Lord Chatham* died while *Mr. Pitt* was in his nineteenth year, but the cloud which such an event could not fail to cast over the prospects of a younger son, was quickly dispelled by those qualities which cleared to him the path to eminence by his own exertions. In the spring of 1780, *Mr. Pitt* became resident in Lincoln's Inn and regularly attended Westminster Hall ; he had previously kept the necessary terms, and, being called to the

bar on the 12th of June, went the western circuit in the summer of that year.

At the general election in the autumn of 1780, he was an unsuccessful candidate to represent the university of Cambridge in parliament; and in the following year, through the influence of Sir James Lowther, was returned for the Borough of Appleby.

It is not my intention, in this sketch, to enter into those details which belong to history; first, because I feel I could not do justice to them; and, secondly, because I am convinced that *Mr. Pitt's* character, as a statesman, can never be duly appreciated, if detached from the great events which he attempted to control; and any attempt at a narrative of them here would far exceed my limits. I, therefore, recommend those who wish to be more intimately acquainted with the particulars of *Mr. Pitt's* public career, to peruse the memoirs of him written by *Mr. Gifford* and by *Dr. Tomline*, late *Bishop of Winchester*, his tutor.

*Mr. Pitt's* first speech in the British senate was delivered on the 26th of February 1781, on *Mr. Burke's* motion respecting a retrenchment in the civil list. It is a curious fact mentioned by *Dr. Tomline* that *Mr. Pitt* entered the House of Commons without any intention of taking part in the debate; but, being called upon by the house, he rose, and beginning in a collected and unembarrassed manner, argued strongly in favour of the bill, and acquitted himself in a manner which astonished all who heard him, and convinced the world that the expectations formed of him were completely answered. At this period *Mr. Pitt* had not completed his twenty-second year.\*

The death of the *Marquis of Rockingham* and the consequent dissolution of his ministry, caused the elevation of the *Earl of Shelburne* to the post of First Lord of the Treasury, and *Mr. Pitt*, for the first time, became a

\* Memoirs of the Right Honourable William Pitt, vol. i. p. 22.

cabinet minister, by accepting the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he had just completed his twenty-third year. A general peace with America, France, Spain, &c. soon followed, and, in April 1783, the famous coalition ministry took the places of those whom they had expelled. Their triumph, however, was of short duration ; for the rejection of the celebrated *India Bill* by the House of Lords, compelled them to resign their places ; and *Mr. Pitt*, whose talent for the office was no longer denied, was made, at the age of twenty-four, First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer. His firmness of purpose, and uncompromising rectitude of conduct, carried him triumphantly through all the cabals and opposition levelled against him at the commencement of his career, and, subsequently, through the difficulties of the Regency Question in 1788, and through the dangers with which the country was menaced at the period of the French revolution.

What has been termed the *system* or *principle* of *Mr. Pitt*, in commencing and continuing the war with France, cannot be better explained than in the language of *Lord Grenville*, who, when it was proposed to make peace with the Republican Government of France, found the propositions and explanations of the French minister to be insults rather than concessions and apologies, and said, that his Sovereign never could discontinue his preparations for war, “ *while the French retained that turbulent and aggressive spirit which threatened danger to every nation in Europe.* ”\* On this principle the war was instituted, and on this principle it was supported, at a risk and at an expense beyond all precedent. *Mr. Pitt*, however, did not live to witness that glorious and wonderful termination, which was, at last, brought about by a continuance of the same system he had constantly pursued ; and which, finally, ended in the conquest of France, the annihilation of her armies, and the

\* Biographical Dictionary, vol. xxv.—Tomline’s and Gifford’s Lives of William Pitt.

banishment of her Ruler. *Mr. Pitt*, after a short illness, died, at four o'clock in the morning, on the 23d January, 1806, in the 47th year of his age, and was shortly afterwards interred in Westminster Abbey.

The freedom of the Grocers' Company was voted to *Mr. Pitt* in February 1784, and his obliging mode of accepting the honour gave great satisfaction to the Members.\* The record was richly emblazoned on vellum, and was accompanied by the following letter :

" Sir,

" In testimony of the lively sense which the  
 " Grocers' Company entertain of your able, upright, and  
 " disinterested conduct, as First Commissioner of the  
 " Treasury and Chancellor of His Majesty's Exchequer,  
 " and in gratitude for, and approbation of your steady  
 " zeal, in supporting the legal prerogative of the Crown  
 " and constitutional rights of the people, in the present  
 " alarming and critical juncture of affairs, the Court of  
 " Assistants do themselves the honour to admit you into  
 " the freedom of their Company, and have directed the  
 " Wardens to present you with the copy taken from their  
 " book of admission.

" JOHN FINCH, *Master.*

" WILLIAM HILL,

" JAMES TYRES,

" THOMAS JACKSON,

} *Wardens.*

## CHARLES, MARQUESS CORNWALLIS, K. G.

" He was a man of rare redoubted might,  
 " Famous throughout the world for warlike prayse,  
 " And glorious spoyles purchast in perilous fight.  
 " Full many doughtie knights he in his dayes  
 " Had doen to death, subdued in equall frayes."

*Spenser. Faerie Queene, Canto V.*

The family of *Cornwallis* sprung originally from commerce, and settled honourably in Suffolk nearly five centuries ago.

\* See page 39.

*William Harvey, Esq.* Clarenceux King of Arms, in his visitation of the county of Suffolk, made *anno 1561*, states, that *Thomas Cornwalleyes*, of London, merchant, the first of this family mentioned in the said visitation, “ was a younger brother, and born in Ireland, from whence the surname cometh, (where at this day be found divers of that name), as appears by a deed indentured in the forty-first year of *Edward III.*, and that this Thomas gave the same arms which the house, at the time of the said visitation, did bear, with a *fess dancette*; the like whereof (he says) is engraven in stone upon the church porch of Ocley near Broome; nevertheless, they do now bear, and of long time have borne, the *fess plain*; which deed, with the seal of arms, and the escutcheon upon the porch, as is aforesaid, the said *Clarenceux* testifies to have seen in his said visitation.” This *Thomas Cornwalleyes* was Sheriff of London in 1378, and dying in 1384, was buried in the church of St. Martin’s Vintry, London.

From him descended Frederick, the first peer, who on the 20th of April 1661, was created a Baron of the realm, by the title of *Lord Cornwallis* of Eye in the county of Suffolk.

Charles, the fifth Lord, one of the Grooms of the Bed-chamber to *George I.* was constituted Lord Chief Justice, and Justice in Eyre of all the King’s forests, &c. south of Trent, and was elevated to the rank of an Earl, by the style and title of *Viscount Broome*, in the county of Suffolk, and *Earl Cornwallis*.

Charles, his eldest son and heir, the subject of this memoir, was born on the 31st of December, 1738. He represented the Borough of Eye in Parliament, until he succeeded his father in the peerage in 1762. His Lordship, choosing a military life, was appointed aide-de-camp to *Geo. III.* in August 1765, with the rank of Colonel of foot. He became Major-general in 1775, Lieutenant-general in 1777, and General in 1793. The history of this distinguished soldier’s active life, to be fully appreciated,

must be read in the annals of his country. He had an important, though not always fortunate, command in the American war; and in 1786, his Lordship was sent out to India with the double appointment of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief; and, arriving at Calcutta in September of that year, found the different Presidencies in rising prosperity. Not long after, the Government of Bengal judged it necessary to declare war against the *Sultan of Mysore*, for his attack on the *Rajah of Travancore*, the ally of the English. The campaign of 1790 was indecisive; but in March 1791, *Lord Cornwallis* invaded the Mysore, and came in sight of Seringapatam, which he was prevented from investing by the floods of the Cavery. In 1792 he besieged that metropolis; when, as the attack advanced, *Tippoo Saib* sued for peace, and obtained it, on terms dictated by his Lordship. By his integrity, punctilious regard to faith, and disinterested and generous conduct, he increased the reputation of the British name in India; and, by his measures for its improvement, ameliorated the condition of our empire there.

On the 5th of August 1792, he was advanced to the dignity of *Marquess Cornwallis*.

In 1798, the rebellion in Ireland appearing, both to the Viceroy *Lord Camden* and to His Majesty, to require a Lord Lieutenant, who could act in a military as well as in a civil capacity, the King appointed *Marquess Cornwallis* his successor. "The rebellion being finished," says *Bisset*, "the new Viceroy adopted a plan of mingled firmness and conciliation, which, executed with discriminating judgment, tended to quiet Ireland, and prepare matters for a permanent plan to prevent the recurrence of such pernicious evils, and to promote the industry and prosperity of the country."\* He retained his high appointment till May 1801, when he was succeeded by the *Earl of Hardwicke*.

In 1804 his Lordship had the honour of being appointed

\* *History of England*, vol. vi. p. 215.

a second time Governor-General of India, on the recal of *Marquess Wellesley*; and in that station he died, at Gawnepoor, in the province at Benares, October the 5th 1805, worn out with an active life spent in the service of his country, and covered with glory and honours.\*

On the 31st of October 1792, the *Marquess Cornwallis* was elected a Member of the Grocer's Company, at the same time with his friend and companion in arms, *Sir William Medows*.

#### MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM MEDOWS, K.B.

In the pedigrees preserved at the College of Arms I find that *Daniell Meadowe*, of Chatisham St. Mary, in the county of Suffolk, in the year 1630, purchased the Lordship of Witnesham of *Sir Robert Kytcham*. His son, *Sir Philip Medows*, Marshal of the King's Palace, and Knight of the order of the Elephant of Denmark, was appointed His Majesty's Ambassador to the court of Sweden. His great grandson, *Charles Medows*, representative in Parliament for the county of Nottingham, took the name and arms of *Pierrepont*, and was raised to the peerage in 1796, by the title of *Viscount Newark*, of Newark-upon-Trent, and *Baron Pierrepont*, of Holme Pierrepont, both of the county of Nottingham.

His third brother, *Sir William Medows*, Knight of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, was a Major-general in the army, and Colonel of the 73d regiment of foot, Highlanders. He was the companion in arms of the great *Marquess Cornwallis*, under whom he highly distinguished himself in India. He received the freedom of the Grocers' Company at the same time with that gallant commander, namely, in October 1792, and it was presented to him with the following address :

\* Collins's Peerage, by Sir E. Brydges, vol. ii. p. 537.

“ Sir,

“ To manifest the unshaken loyalty of the Worshipful Company of Grocers to their most gracious Sovereign, and in testimony of the high sense of approbation and regard which they entertain for His Majesty’s officers, most nobly and eminently distinguishing themselves in the service of their country, the Court of Assistants of the Company of Grocers, truly sensible of the success which has attended His Majesty’s arms in India under your command and wise conduct, most humbly request you will be pleased to honour them by your acceptance of the freedom of their Company, famed for antiquity, and distinguished in having His late most gracious Majesty King William III. of illustrious memory, and many other august and noble personages, as members of their community.

“ JAMES TYARS,  
 “ THOMAS JACKSON,  
 “ WILLIAM SUTHERLAND,  
 “ LAUNCELOT SHARPE, } Wardens.”

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT BANKS JENKINSON, EARL OF LIVERPOOL.

“ If the sun of his career, as Prime Minister of England, rose amidst the war of elements, amidst clouds and lightnings and thunder, it set in splendour and in glory.”—*Obituary*.

*Sir Robert Jenkinson*, of Walcot, in the county of Oxon, Knt. had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by James I. anno 1618. He is said to have been descended from *Anthony Jenkinson*, an eminent merchant and navigator, in the reigns of *Edward VI.*, *Queen Mary*, and *Queen Elizabeth*, who was Ambassador from England to Constantinople and to the Czar of Muscovy. Sir Robert’s son was created a Baronet by *Charles II.* anno 1661, and the title remained unchanged in the family until the year 1786, when Charles, son of *Sir Banks Jenkinson*, was

elevated to the peerage by the title of *Baron Hawkesbury* in the county of Gloucester, and advanced to be *Earl of Liverpool*, on the 28th May 1796. *Robert Banks Jenkinson*, the subject of this memoir, was his eldest son, and succeeded to the title in 1808.\*

His Lordship was born on the 7th June 1770; and, after having been educated at the Charter-house, was entered as a student at Christ Church, Oxford, where he formed an acquaintance, which ripened into intimacy and friendship, with *Mr. Canning*. *Lord Liverpool's* first entrance into public life was as Member of Parliament for Rye, in 1791: he had been elected the year preceding, but could not take his seat, as he had not attained the age of twenty-one. In 1793 *Mr. Jenkinson* was appointed one of the Commissioners of the India Board, the duties of which station he performed with equal satisfaction to the Company and to the Government. In 1796, in consequence of the elevation of his father to the peerage, he assumed the title of *Lord Hawkesbury*.

The first introduction of *Lord Hawkesbury* into the cabinet took place in 1801, when, at the temporary retirement of *Mr. Pitt* from power, *Mr. Addington* was appointed Prime Minister. *Lord Hawkesbury* then became Secretary of State for the Foreign Department, and was actively engaged in the debates which ensued on those changes. In one of those debates *Mr. Pitt* took an opportunity of warmly eulogising him; and asked the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House “ if they knew any one “ among them superior to the noble Secretary—saving, “ indeed, one person, unnecessary to name, whose tran-“ scendent talents made him an exception to almost any “ rule ? ”

On the resignation of *Mr. Addington* in 1803, the administration was, of course, dissolved: *Mr. Pitt* returned to the head of the ministry, and *Lord Hawkesbury* received the seals of the Home Department. The death of *Mr. Pitt*,

\* *Collins's Peerage*, by Sir E. Brydges, vol. v.

which took place on the 23d of January 1806, afforded *Lord Hawkesbury*, who had continued with distinguished zeal and ability, to manage the duties of his own office, and materially to assist *Mr. Pitt* in the general concerns of that changing time, the first opportunity that occurred to him of having a supreme control in the councils of the nation. His late Majesty, in the first instance, honoured him with his confidence and commands respecting the formation of a new ministry; but *Lord Hawkesbury*, well knowing the situation and the relative strength of public parties, with that discriminating good sense which always distinguished him, declined the flattering offer. He received, however, a decided proof of the King's attachment, by being appointed to the vacant situation of Warden of the Cinque Ports.

On the return of *Mr. Pitt's* friends to power in the following year, *Lord Hawkesbury* resumed his station in the Cabinet as Secretary for the Home Department, still declining any higher, and especially avoiding the highest office. At the latter end of 1808, *Lord Hawkesbury* was summoned to attend the death-bed of his father, who, after a protracted illness, expired on the 17th December, in that year, thus leaving his son at the head of his family as second *Earl of Liverpool*.

When the duel between *Lord Castlereagh* and *Mr. Canning* induced them to resign their situations in the government, and the *Duke of Portland* to withdraw from its head, *Mr. Percival*, still finding the *Earl of Liverpool* averse to the Premiership, united in name, as he had already done in effect, the two offices of First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and *Lord Liverpool* consented to become Secretary of State for the War Department.

At length an event, as unexpected as it was calamitous, the assassination of *Mr. Percival* in May 1812, left the ministry in so disjointed a state that *Lord Liverpool* yielded to the request of the *Prince Regent* to place himself at its head; and it may be truly said that no man

ever rose to an exalted station by more gradual or more natural steps than those by which *Lord Liverpool* attained the Premiership. He had been in Parliament twenty years, taking, in each house, successively, a leading part in every debate of national importance, and he had been for more than half that period in the confidential service of the Crown.

It would be superfluous to follow his Lordship through his bright career during the eventful period of the Spanish war, on the success of which the fate not only of England but of Europe seemed to depend, or to detail the measures which he adopted, during the disturbances of 1816 and 1817, for preserving and restoring the internal tranquillity of the country ; they are present to the recollection of all of us.

*Lord Liverpool* continued to discharge the duties of his elevated station until February 1827, when his Lordship was suddenly seized by a fit of an apoplectic and paralytic nature, which affected the whole of his right side, and from which he never recovered. He lingered on in a hopeless state until the 4th December 1828, when an attack of spasms and convulsions terminated his existence.

*Lord Liverpool* was admitted a member of the Grocers' Company on the 12th July 1814, and the freedom was presented to him with the following address :—

“ To the Right Honourable Robert Banks, Earl of  
“ Liverpool, Knight of the Garter, &c. &c. &c.  
“ May it please your Lordship,  
“ We have the pleasure to express, in the name of the  
“ Worshipful Company of Grocers, the high gratification  
“ they derive from your Lordship's condescension in  
“ becoming a member of our Society. Could we have  
“ devised a better mode of testifying the gratitude, re-  
“ spect, and attachment which we feel for your Lordship  
“ than by presenting you with the freedom of the  
“ Company we should undoubtedly have adopted it; but,  
“ humble as the tribute may appear, we have thought that

“ your Lordship would feel some gratification in having  
 “ your name inscribed on a roll already graced with those  
 “ of King William III. the first Earl of Chatham, and  
 “ the late Mr. Pitt, whose example it has been your care  
 “ and pride to follow.

“ Glorious and dear as are the recollections which those  
 “ names inspire, they are not more fondly cherished by the  
 “ present generation, nor will they be courted by posterity  
 “ with more enthusiasm, than the memory of the events  
 “ which have marked the course and crowned the efforts  
 “ of your Lordship’s administration. To the wisdom and  
 “ perseverance, the unshaken firmness, and exemplary  
 “ moderation, manifested by your Lordship in the most  
 “ difficult times and under every vicissitude of fortune,  
 “ this country is already signally indebted, and we doubt  
 “ not that the same eminent qualities which have so  
 “ greatly contributed, in war, to advance its military cha-  
 “ racter and extend its renown, will now be employed,  
 “ with equal success, in improving its resources, promoting  
 “ its commercial prosperity, and cultivating all the arts of  
 “ peace.

“ ROBERT INGLIS,  
 “ ROBERT HOLDEN,  
 “ EDMUND LARKEN,  
 “ THOMAS DAY FRAMPTON,

} *Wardens.*

The entry of the freedom in the Company’s books runs thus:—

“ The Right Honourable Robert Banks, Earl of Liver-  
 “ pool, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,  
 “ and First Commissioner of His Majesty’s Treasury, was,  
 “ on the 12th day of July 1814, admitted into the freedom  
 “ of the Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of  
 “ Grocers of the City of London, pursuant to the unani-  
 “ mous resolution of a Court of Assistants holden the same  
 “ day.

“ THOMAS NETTLESHIPP, *Clerk.*”

## CHARLES WILLIAM VANE, MARQUESS AND EARL OF LONDONDERRY.

The branch of the ancient house of *Stewart* from which the noble Marquess descends, is that derived from *Sir Thomas Stewart* of Minto, second son of *Sir William Stewart* of Garlies, ancestor to the *Earls of Galloway*.

*William Stewart*, of Ballylawn Castle, county of Donegal, Esq. (great grandson of *John Stewart, Esq.* who had a grant from *Charles I.* of the manor of Stewarts' Court, where he erected the castle of Ballylawn) took an active part in the transactions in the north of Ireland, to prevent the subversion of the Constitution, which *James II.* and his chief governor, *Lord Tyrconnel*, were attempting to effect: he raised a troop of horse at his own expense when the City of Londonderry was invested, and did essential service to the Protestant interest in that part, by protecting those who were well affected to *King William III.* and was appointed Lieutenant-colonel in the regiment commanded by *Sir William Stewart, Viscount Mountjoy*. The present Marquess is the fifth descendant of that *William Stewart*.

*The Marquess of Londonderry* is a Lieutenant-general in the Army, and Colonel of the 10th Dragoons, Governor and Custos Rotulorum of the counties of Londonderry and Down, G.C.B. G.C.H. K.T.S. K.S.G. K.R.E. K.B.E. and K.S.

He was elected a member of the Grocers' Company in July 1814, at the same time with the *Earl of Liverpool*.

## THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM KNOX, D.D. LORD BISHOP OF DERRY.

The noble family of *Knox* assumed their name from the estate of *Knox*, in the Barony of Renfrew in Scotland, where they were anciently seated. The *Bishop of Derry* is fourth son of Thomas, who was created *Baron Welles* 16th January 1781, and *Viscount Northland*, 5th July 1791, and brother to the present Viscount. He was consecrated *Bishop of Killaloe* in 1794, and translated to the See of Derry in 1803.

His Lordship was elected a member of the Grocers' Company on the 29th of May 1816.

## THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE CANNING.

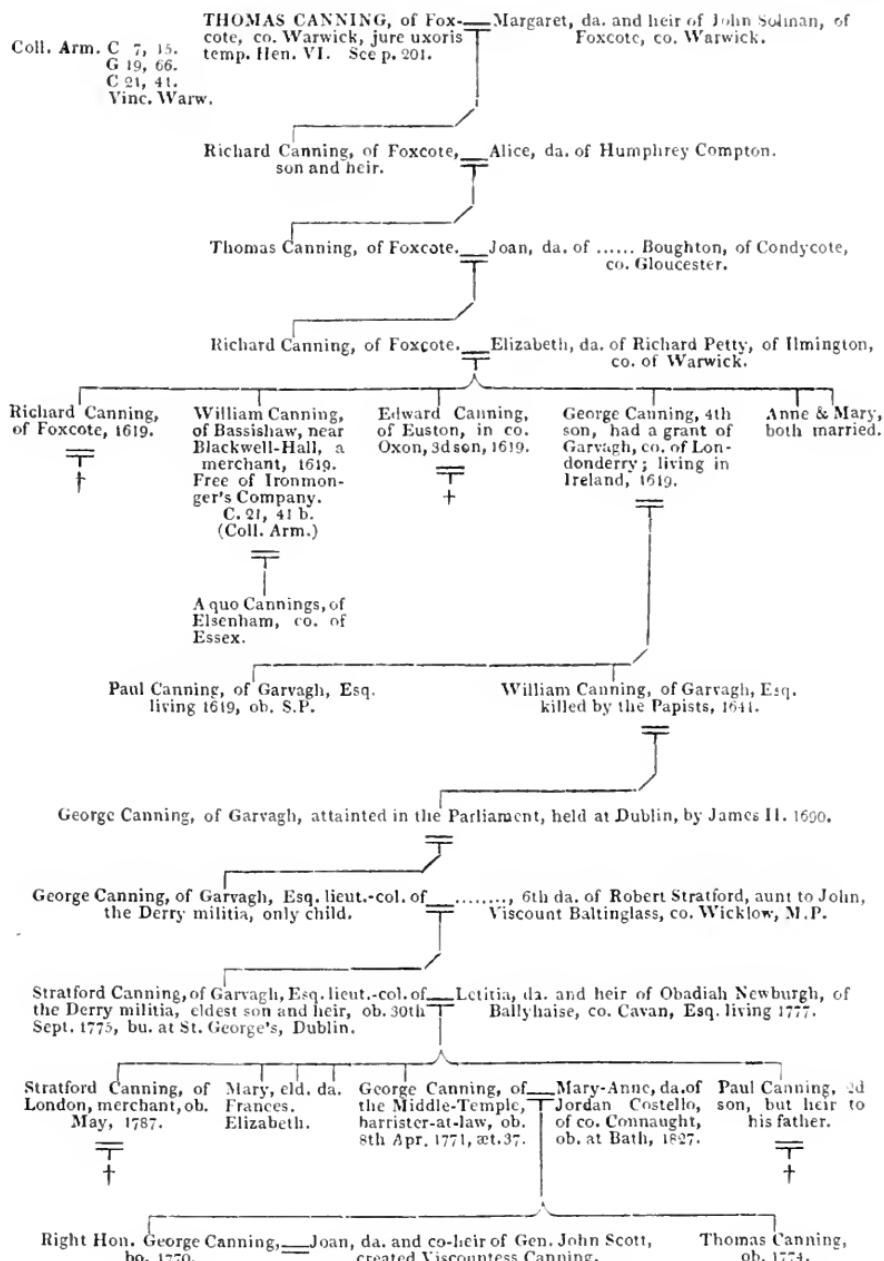
“ Statesman, yet friend to truth, of soul sincere,  
“ In action faithful, and in honour clear;  
“ Who broke no promise, served no private end,  
“ Who gain'd no title, and who lost no friend,  
“ Ennobled by himself.”

*George Canning*, the late Prime Minister of England, was born, in London, on the 11th April 1770. He was descended of a respectable and ancient family. For three centuries and upwards, the *Cannings of Foxcote*,\* have been among the most respected members of the resident-gentry of Warwickshire. In 1618 *George*, the fourth son of *Richard Canning* of Foxcote, obtained a grant of the Manor of Garvagh in Londonderry, from *James I.*

\* See the pedigree of the Cannings, at page 201. Mr. Canning is descended from Sir Thomas Cannynge, Lord Mayor of London in 1456.

This royal bequest induced him to go over to Ireland, and settle there. His grandson, of the same name, who married a daughter of *Robert Stratford, Esq.* of Baltin-glass, (an aunt of the first *Earl of Aldborough,*) had a son named *Stratford*, after his maternal parent. *Stratford Canning* had three sons, *George, Paul, and Stratford.* *George*, the eldest of the three, was the father of the late minister; *Paul*, the second, had one son promoted to the peerage in 1818, by the title of *Baron Garvagh*; *Stratford Canning*, the third son, had several children, one of whom, the *Right Honourable Stratford Canning*, is a distinguished diplomatist, and was, for many years, ambassador from this country to the Court of Constantinople.

The pedigree of *Mr. Canning*, derived from an authentic source, is here introduced although its insertion may not serve to augment his fame, for he was the most illustrious member of his line. He was one of those mighty master-spirits which “ peep out once an age ;” his name may shed lustre and honour on his posterity; “ but “ he had in himself a salient spring of generous and manly “ action, which needed not to resort to any stagnant “ wasting reservoir of merit in any ancestry.” To those, however, who may be disposed to stickle for the point of the respectability of his descent, the subjoined pedigree will suffice to show that his family belonged to an independent and honourable rank in life.



*Note.*—For this pedigree I am indebted to G. F. Beltz, Esq. Lancaster-Herald, who has permitted the above extract to be made from his private collection. Mr. Therry's Life of Mr. Canning, from which I have taken the greater part of this biographical sketch, contains a pedigree which is incorrect in several points.

*George Canning*, the father of the statesman, was a gentleman of considerable literary acquirements. He displeased his parents by marrying a dowerless beauty; this alliance was formed in London after he had entered his name as a student of the Middle Temple. The maiden name of *Mrs. Canning*, whom he married in the spring of 1768, was *Miss Costello*; she was an Irish lady, who, though unendowed with fortune, belonged to a family of high respectability. By the surviving members of *Mr. Canning's* family who remembered this lady at the time of her marriage, she is spoken of in terms of high commendation, as a lady of great beauty and accomplishments.

*Mr. and Mrs. Canning*, although possessed of very limited means, were received into a very elegant circle of society, and lived together contented, happy, and respected. He died in April 1771, whilst he was engaged in making efforts to extricate himself from difficulties which had been daily thickening around him.

Thus the circumstances of the birth of *Mr. Canning*, the subject of this memoir, were far from auspicious of a future distinguished destiny. In the first year of his infancy his father died; his mother, by her husband's death was left an unprovided widow, and was obliged to devote those talents and accomplishments, which hitherto adorned her in private life, to procure an honourable and independent subsistence in public. To a lady of her beauty and abilities, the stage presented itself as an obvious mode of accomplishing this object; her success in this profession was not eminent, but it was sufficient to gratify her laudable desire of arriving at independence. She entered into a second matrimonial engagement by marrying *Mr. Hunn*, who died a short time after their union.

It is perhaps not irrelevant here to state that *Mr. Canning* took the earliest occasion of relieving his mother from the necessity of obtaining a maintenance by the public exercise of her talents; with an affection truly dutious and exemplary, he not only applied a portion of the means allowed him by his family for the prosecution of

his collegiate studies to her support, but devoted to that praiseworthy purpose the first fruits of his public services. When he retired, in 1801, from the office of Under Secretary of State, he was entitled to a pension of £500 a-year, which, instead of appropriating to his own uses, he requested might be settled as a provision on his mother.

*Mr. Canning* was sent to Eton at the age of thirteen, and placed under the care of *Dr. Heath*; there he soon became distinguished for the elegance of his Latin and English poetry, as well as for the easy flow and propriety of diction which distinguished his prose compositions. In his eighteenth year he was entered at Christ Church College, Oxford, where he fully sustained his high literary reputation.

*Mr. Canning's* advancement in political life was mainly attributable to *Mr. Pitt*, and it is somewhat remarkable that the origin of his acquaintance with that great statesman is attributable to the same honourable source from which he derived all his success in after life, namely, his own talents. *Mr. Pitt* having, through a private channel, heard of *Mr. Canning's* reputation as a scholar and a speaker, desired to see him, and the result of the interview was a communication that if *Mr. Canning* concurred in the policy of the Government of that period, arrangements would be made to facilitate his introduction into parliament. After a full explanation between *Mr. Pitt* and *Mr. Canning* of the feelings of each on all important public questions of the moment; the result was, on the part of the latter, the determination to connect himself politically with *Mr. Pitt*, and on the part of *Mr. Pitt*, the offer of a seat in parliament: *Mr. Canning* was, in consequence, returned to parliament in 1793, for the Borough of Newport in the Isle of Wight, and, in 1796, was appointed to the office of Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs under *Lord Grenville*.

*Mr. Canning* was married in July 1800, to *Miss Joan Scott*, daughter and co-heiress of *General Scott*. The elder sister of this lady had been married a short time pre-

viously to the *Marquess of Titchfield*, now *Duke of Portland*. This matrimonial alliance with *Miss Scott* was in every respect advantageous to *Mr. Canning*; her society rendered him happy, her fortune made him independent, gave weight and authority to his talents, and facilitated his advancement to those high stations in the government of the country, to which the exercise of those talents had entitled him.

On the resignation of *Mr. Pitt* and the appointment of *Mr. Addington* to the head of the ministry, *Mr. Canning* was an active opponent of the Government, and, in 1803, made a speech in parliament in which he unequivocally declared his opinion that the ministry was unworthy the confidence of the country, and incapable of administering its affairs. At length, in 1804, a new administration was formed, and *Mr. Pitt* resuming the premiership, *Mr. Canning* was nominated Treasurer of the Navy. At the death of *Mr. Pitt*, which happened in 1805, a dissolution of the ministry took place and, the whig party succeeding to power, *Mr. Canning* resigned his post of Treasurer of the Navy to *Mr. Sheridan*. A difference occurring between the King and his ministers on the introduction, by the latter, of a bill in parliament, "For securing to all His Majesty's subjects the privilege of serving in the army and navy," a dissolution of the cabinet ensued, in 1806, and, in the April of that year, a new administration was formed under the *Duke of Portland*, in which *Mr. Canning* accepted the Seals of the Foreign Office, and, for the first time, became a Cabinet Minister.

In the year 1809, memorable for the unfortunate result of the Walcheren expedition, the duel between *Lord Castlereagh* and *Mr. Canning* occurred, and a total change in the ministry took place by the elevation of *Mr. Percival* to the post of Prime Minister, and the resignation of the two individuals above mentioned.

At the death of *Mr. Percival*, in 1812, the task of forming an administration was entrusted to *Lord Liverpool*, who made a proposition to *Mr. Canning* to become a

member of it. The offer was accompanied with an intimation that he was at liberty to retain and to express his well-known sentiments on the Catholic question. *Mr. Canning*, however, declined it, because *Lord Liverpool's* government *then* professed to oppose, as a government, the removal of the Roman Catholic disabilities. At the close of the session of 1812, Parliament was dissolved; and, at the general election which ensued, *Mr. Canning* was invited to become a candidate for the representation of Liverpool, in consequence of the services which he rendered to that city and to the commerce of the country generally in the discussion which had taken place, at the beginning of that year in Parliament, respecting the renewal of the East-India Company's charter. *Mr. Canning*, “unaccredited by patrician patronage,” succeeded in gaining his election by a triumphant majority; and he was equally successful on the four other occasions when he aspired to the honour of representing the second commercial city in the empire.

The friendly intercourse between *Mr. Canning* and the important mercantile community he represented, subsisted, without interruption, from the commencement of his connexion with them in 1811, until his expected departure from England to assume the government of India in 1822. His constituents then presented him with a valuable piece of plate, together with an address, expressive of the high sense they entertained of his services during the period that he had been their representative in parliament.

In 1814 *Mr. Canning* was appointed Ambassador to the Court of Lisbon, where he remained two years; and, on his return in 1816, was appointed to the Presidency of the Board of Control, vacated by the death of the *Earl of Buckinghamshire*. He retained this office until the unfortunate proceedings in Parliament relative to the late *Queen Caroline*. *Mr. Canning* was indebted to her Majesty for many former acts of kind and attentive civility, and the gratitude which this consideration inspired, and the circumstance of his having been the adviser of her Majesty,

on the occasion of a somewhat similar inquiry in 1805, induced him to abstain from taking any part in the proceedings; he, therefore, resigned his place as President of the Board of Controul. In the two subsequent years, 1821 and 1822, *Mr. Canning* took little part in public affairs, and it was in the latter year that the Directors of the East-India Company chose him to fill the situation of Governor-General of Fort William, in the Presidency of Bengal, the seat of the supreme government of British India. Every arrangement for his departure was made, and the *Jupiter* (74) prepared to convey him to India; but an unexpected change in his destiny took place. The sudden death of the *Marquess of Londonderry* created a vacancy in the office of Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the public eye immediately turned towards *Mr. Canning*, as the person in every respect the best qualified to be his successor. He had been offered (as has already been stated) the same office in 1812, but declined its acceptance. Now, however, that all the obstacles had been removed which urged him to decline it at that period, the public wish was strongly expressed that he should resume an office more important to his native country, and one in which the exercise of his powers would be more immediately connected with the interests and welfare of England than it was possible they could be during his superintendence of the distant government of India. The expression of public opinion found an echo in the royal breast, and, early in September, on the return of the King from Scotland, where he had been on a visit at the time of *Lord Londonderry's* death, the seals of the Foreign Office were presented to *Mr. Canning*.

He continued to fill that distinguished situation until the unfortunate attack which seized *Lord Liverpool* in 1827 deprived the country of one of the most conscientious and upright ministers that ever presided over its councils. *Mr. Canning's* political career then approached that period at which, after the various vicissitudes of political life, he reached the highest station which the

legitimate ambition of a British subject can attain. His situation, on his acceptance of the office of First Lord of the Treasury, may not unaptly be compared to that of a shepherd without a flock; for, within four-and-twenty hours after his appointment, seven of his colleagues, the *Duke of Wellington*, *Lord Eldon*, *Lord Bathurst*, *Lord Melville*, *Lord Bexley*, *Lord Westmoreland*, and *Mr. Peel* resigned their respective offices. *Lord Harrowby*, *Mr. Huskisson*, *Mr. Robinson*, and *Mr. Wynn* remained to co-operate with *Mr. Canning* in carrying on the affairs of the country. Nothing daunted by the desertion of his friends, *Mr. Canning* proceeded in filling up the vacant places in the cabinet, and was prepared to meet Parliament at the opening of the session. Urged on by the petty and vexatious opposition which he encountered at the commencement of his Premiership, his ardent mind impelled him to exertions beyond his strength, and these exertions were rapidly destroying the springs of life.

On Wednesday, the 11th July, 1827, *Mr. Canning* went to Wimbledon, to a cabinet-dinner at the Lord Chancellor's, where, having made himself warm with exercise, he sat for some time under a tree in the open air. The next day he complained of a slight feeling of rheumatism; but it was not until the following Saturday that it became so serious as to confine him to his bed. He was detained there for a week; but, on Friday the 20th, was sufficiently recovered to remove to the *Duke of Devonshire's* villa at Chiswick, which the Duke had lent him for change of air. On the 30th July he paid his last visit to His Majesty; and on the 31st he came, for the last time, to town and transacted business for a few hours with several official gentlemen. On the 3d August he was seized with excruciating pains in the side, which gave the first striking indications to those around him of his alarming condition; these continued until his strength gave way, and he expired on the 8th of August.

Thus perished *Mr. Canning*; a patriot minister, whose views were generous and comprehensive as the station of

his mind was exalted. He died when he had reached his meridian elevation, without yet shining forth in meridian lustre, whilst the eyes and hopes of his country and of the world were directed to him. Had his life been protracted to a longer span, even until he had witnessed the realization of all the schemes of that policy, the basis of which he declared to be British honour and British interest, he could not have acquired for himself a greater renown than that which surrounded him at the close of a life which, like that of *Agricola*, united in one tribute of universal sorrow, the griefs of his family, of his friends, of his country, and of the world. “*Finis vite nobis luctuosus, amicis tristis, extraneis etiam ignotisque non sine curâ fuit.*”\*

*Mr. Canning* was elected a member of the Company of Grocers, at the same time with his colleagues in office, *Mr. Robinson*, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and *Mr. Peel*, Secretary of State for the Home Department, in May 1824.

### THE RIGHT HONOURABLE FREDERICK JOHN ROBINSON, VISCOUNT GODERICH.

*The Right Honourable Frederick John Robinson*, second son of *Thomas*, second *Lord Grantham*, descended from *Sir Metcalf Robinson*, who was created a baronet in 1660. *Mr. Robinson* was representative for Rippon in the county of York for seven consecutive parliaments; he was appointed a Lord of the Treasury in 1812; Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1823; in 1827, Secretary of State for the Colonial Department; and, the same year, First Lord of His Majesty’s Treasury.

*Lord Goderich* was presented with the freedom of the Grocers’ Company in the month of May 1824, at the same time with his colleagues in office, *Mr. Canning* and *Mr. Peel*.

\* Tacitus *vitæ Agricolæ*, cap. 43.

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT PEEL.

*The Right Honourable Robert Peel*, a privy-counsellor in Ireland, and Secretary of State for the Home-Department, son of *Sir Robert Peel*, of Drayton, in the county of Stafford, Bart. *Mr. Peel* was presented with the freedom of the Grocers' Company in May 1824.\*

## CHARLES BARON TENTERDEN.

*The Right Honourable Charles Abbott*, son of *John Abbott*, of Canterbury, born in 1762, was a member of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and afterwards called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. He was appointed, in 1815, a Justice of the Common-Pleas; and, the same year, removed to the King's Bench; was knighted on the 14th of May 1816; elevated, in 1818, to the post of Lord Chief-Justice of the King's Bench; and created Baron Tenterden, of Hendon in the county of Middlesex, on the 30th of April 1827.

His Lordship was elected a member of the Grocers' Company on the 8th July 1829, and was presented with the freedom on the 23d of the same month.

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR GEORGE MURRAY, K.B.

*The Right Honourable Sir George Murray*, Knight-Grand-Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of

\* Mr. Peel has since accepted the freedom of the Merchant Tailors' Company.

the Bath, a member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, was admitted into the freedom of the Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Grocers of the City of London, on the 8th of July 1829, pursuant to the unanimous resolution of a Court of Assistants. It was presented to him at an entertainment given at Grocers' Hall, on the 23d of the same month.



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## APPENDIX.

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### No. 1.

#### MEMBERS OF THIS COMPANY WHO HAVE BEEN LORD MAYORS OF LONDON.

*Of the Fraternity of Pepperers, before their Incorporation,  
the following served the Office of Mayor.*

Anno Domini		Reign.
1231		
1232		
1233		
1234	Andrew Bokerel .....	Henry III.
1235		
1236		
1237		
1245		
1246		
1250		
1259	Sir John Gisors, Knt. ....	{ Henry III. Edward II.
1311		
1312		
1313		
1267	Alan de la Zouch .....	Henry III.
1272	Sir Henry Frowike, * (in part) .....	Edward I.

\* Frowike was Custos of the City for part of this year. He gave the name to one of the City wards, which was called *Warda Henrici de Frowike*, and which seems to have been that of Cripplegate. He was one of the three citizens who founded London College, near the Guildhall, in 1299.

Anno Domini		Reign.
1319		
1321		
1322	Hammond Chikwell .....	{ Edward II.
1324		{ Edward III.
1325		
1327		
1329	Sir John de Grantham .....	
1339		
1340	{ Sir Andrew Aubrey, (the last year a Grocer) .....	
1351		
	The Incorporation having taken place in 1345, the following are all GROCERS.	{ Edward III.
1360	Simon Dolsely .....	
1363	John Notte *	
1375	John Warde .....	
1377		
1383	{ Sir Nicholas Brember .....	
1384		
1385		
1378	Sir John Philpot .....	{ Richard II.
1379	{ Sir John Hadley † .....	
1393		
1389	Sir William Vinor .....	
1392	{ Sir William Standon .....	{ Richard II.
1407		{ Henry IV.
1399	{ Sir Thomas Knolles .....	
1410		{ Henry IV.
1411	{ Sir Robert Chichley .....	{ Henry IV.
1421		{ Henry V.
1418	Sir William Sevenoke .....	
1420	William Cambridge .....	
1431	Sir John de Welles .....	
1434	Sir Roger Oteley † .....	
1438	{ Sir Stephen Browne .....	{ Henry VI.
1448		
1443	Thomas Catworth .....	

\* Notte distinguished himself by passing, during his mayoralty, the bye-law, called *Notte's Law against Usury*. In 1390, the citizens greatly oppressed by usurers, petitioned the King, Richard II., against the horrible vice of usury then termed *Scheves*, and entreated, that "the order made by John Notte, late Mayor," might be executed throughout the realm. The answer was, that the King willed those ordinances to be revised; and, if the same be found to be necessary, that they be then confirmed.

† In Hadley's second mayoralty, Farringdon Ward was, by order of Parliament, appointed to be divided into two wards, to wit, *infra et extra*.

‡ A great frost, of fourteen weeks' duration, occurred in Sir Roger Oteley's mayoralty.

Anno Domini		Reign.
1450	Nicholas Wyfold.....	
1455	Sir William Marowe *	
1456	Sir Thomas Cannyngham .....	{ Henry VI.
1460	Sir Richard Lee .....	
1466	Sir John Young † .....	
1468	Sir William Taylor.....	{ Edward IV.
1471	Sir William Edwards ‡ .....	
1484	{ Sir Thomas Hill § .....	{ Richard III
	John Warde .....	
1504	Sir John Wyngar .....	Henry VII.
1510	Sir Henry Keble .....	
1515	Sir William Butler .....	
1516	Sir John Rest .....	{ Henry VIII.
1531	Sir Nicholas Lambert .....	
1544	Sir William Laxton .....	
1554	Sir John Lyon .....	Q. Mary.
1562	Sir Thomas Lodge .....	
1563	Sir John White    .....	
1573	Sir John Rivers .....	{ Q. Elizabeth.
1577	Sir Thomas Ramsay .....	
1589	Sir John Hart .....	
1598	Sir Stephen Soame .....	
1608	Sir Humphrey Weld .....	
1613	Sir Thomas Middleton .....	
1617	Sir George Bolles .....	{ James I.
1622	Sir Peter Proby .....	
1641	Sir Edmund Wright ¶ .....	Charles I.
1648	Sir John Warner .....	
1650	Sir Thomas Foote .....	{ Commonwealth.
1652	John Kendrick .....	

\* Sir William Marowe bequeathed to the Grocers' Company, by his will, £215 to have masses said for the repose of his soul and for those of his father, mother, and two wives, in the Church of St. Botolph Bishopsgate, for the period of thirty years.

† Sir John Young was knighted in the field of battle with Sir John Crosby and others, for repulsing the Bastard Falconbridge, in his attack upon the City.

‡ The water-conduit, in Aldermanbury, and the standard, in Fleet-street, were this year finished.

§ This was the year of the sweating sickness in London. There were three Lord Mayors and three Sheriffs this year, and two of each died of the disease. Warde, a member of the Grocers' Company, was the survivor among the former.

|| There was a great plague in London during the mayoralty of Sir John White.

¶ Sir William Acton had been elected Mayor for this year; but he was discharged by the House of Commons, and Sir Edmund Wright constituted in his place.

Anno Domini		Reign.
1660	Sir Thomas Alleyne .....	Charles II.
1662	Sir John Frederick *	
1665	Sir John Lawrence .....	
1673	Sir Robert Hanson † .....	
1674	Sir William Hooker .....	
1679	Sir James Edwards .....	
1682	Sir John Moore .....	
1684	Sir Henry Tulse ‡ .....	
1693	Sir John Fleet .....	
1696	Sir John Houblon § .....	
1710	Sir Samuel Garrard    .....	Mary. Anne.
1729	Sir Robert Bayliss .....	George II.
1730	Sir Richard Brocas .....	
1731	Humphrey Parsons .....	
1738	Sir John Barnard .....	
1748	Sir Robert Ladbroke ¶ .....	
1757	Marsh Dickenson .....	

\* Sir John Frederick originally belonged to the Company of Barber-Surgeons; but, as he could not serve the office of Lord Mayor without being attached to one of the twelve great Companies, he was translated to the Grocers in 1661. He resided in the Old Jewry, in a large mansion, the site of which is now occupied by Frederick's Place.

† At the period of Sir Robert Hanson's inauguration, a magnificent pageant was furnished by the Grocers' Company, the printed description of which is thus intituled, "London Triumphant; or, the City in Jollity and Splendour. Expressed in the Shews, Sir Robert Hanson entering upon his Mayoralty. At the cost and charges of the right worshipfull Company of Grocers. Written by Thomas Jordan, 1672." The King dined at Guildhall on the occasion.

‡ Strype mentions the following fact of Sir Henry Tulse:—"Let it remain upon record, for the lasting honour of this Mayor, that when one had offered to present him with a thousand guineas, to procure him a lease of the City's duties of Scavage, Package, Portage, &c. at £400 a year rent to the City, Sir Henry generously refused it; and, moreover, used his endeavour to advance the rent of the said duties for the benefit of the City; by which means it came to pass that £1200 yearly rent was paid for the same by the same person."

§ Sir John Houblon was the first Governor of the Bank of England.

|| It is observable, that three of this name and family have been Mayors in three several Queens' reigns, viz. Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Anne.

¶ A dreadful fire occurred during Sir Robert Ladbroke's mayoralty, which was attended with great loss of property. It broke out at a peruke-maker's in Change-Alley, Cornhill, destroyed upwards of one hundred houses, and caused a loss of property amounting to, at least, £200,000. Sir Robert's conduct on the occasion is thus mentioned by Maitland:—"It is allowed, that the preservation of a great many persons and effects, as well as the stopping the flames, was chiefly owing to the presence, industry, and happy directions of the Right Honourable Sir Robert Ladbroke, Knt. Lord Mayor." This is considered as the most calamitous fire that ever occurred in London, excepting the destructive one, known as "the great fire of London," which took place in 1666.

Anno Domini		Reign.
1761	Sir Matthew Blackiston .....	
1765	Sir William Stephenson .....	
1766	George Nelson .....	
1792	Sir John Hopkins .....	George III.

## No. 2.

FURNITURE, AND ORNAMENTS BELONGING, FOR  
THE ALTAR OF THE GROCERS, IN SAINT  
ANTHONY'S CHURCH.

1349. A Chalyce weigh<sup>g</sup> 15 ownces Troie w<sup>t</sup>. and a gode myssale whch costen £3.6.8. given by Sir Symon de Wy, Parson of Barnes.
1398. 1 Missale.  
 1 Gr<sup>t</sup> Portarie.  
 1 Chalyce sylver gylte.  
 1 other sylver chalyce parcell gylte.  
 1 Pr. of viales of sylver.  
 1 Pr. ditto of tinne, (stanno.)  
 1 Latyn candelstyke.  
 2 Longe Chestes with 4 boltes of yron.  
 1 Rydolle of red bawdkyn wth crosses, to hang before y<sup>e</sup> altare.  
 1 Crucifix & 2 images.  
 1 vestyment wth a corpus of redde bawdkyn for a preste.  
 1 vestyment of white for a preste.  
 2 whyte curtens for y<sup>e</sup> chappel.  
 1 long whyte curten wth crosses for y<sup>e</sup> same.  
 2 old prestes' vestyments.  
 2 altare towelles.  
 2 surplises.

The above are enumerated, as being delivered to the Priest, Sir John Whyteby, by the Wardens, Robert Pep and Henry Hulton.

## No. 3.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE GROCERS' COMPANY  
IN 1373, THE 47<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF EDWARD III.

En le honeur de Dieux, ceux sont les psones del fraternite des Grosers en le temps q. *John Maryns et Richard de Ayllesbury* furent Gardeynes de le dit Comp. en l'an du grace **MCCCLXXIIJ**, et du Roi Edward III. apres la conqste **XLVII**.

John Aubrey.	Thomas Thornaye.
Berth. Frestlyng.	John Lerdefeld.
John Warde.	John Gaddelowe.
Rob <sup>t</sup> . Hatfeld.	Mark Passeelewe.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Brembre.	Phile. Zonge.
Thomas Hanapsted.	John Zonge.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Preston.	Geffry Adam.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Warde.	Mark Ornele.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Venor.	John Hanefeld.
Reynold Lone.	John Thomelyn.
John Gesors.	John Gonach.
Adam Chaungeor.	Phil. Steer.
John Haddel.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Loseye.
Fowke Horewod.	Will. Werthman.
John Hoo.	Will. Waddesworth.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Odilman.	John Cosyn.
John Goly.	Steven Evronne.
John Maryns.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Owre.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Dillesbury.	Thomas Walden.
John Hotham.	Walt <sup>r</sup> . Walden.
Adam Carbell.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Sproch.
Adam Donakyn.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Bodewynd.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Cuhlman.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Wrylkes.
Berth. Opyne.	Tho <sup>s</sup> . Guyshman.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Herkested.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Morell.
Geffry Ormelsford.	John Churcheman.
Thomas Wyth.	Roger del Panterye.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Hatfeld.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Waddeby.
Walter Frowyk.	Reynold Bleyn.

Rob <sup>t</sup> . Osspring.	Thomas Garthwyth.
Roger Wrintaby.	John Oxelkirk.
Peres Wedyngton.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Addewell.
John Wythir.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Menge.
Geffry Haddlyman.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Warde.
John Wrygefورد.	Thomas Makewilliam.
John Hert.	John Godard.
John Foxston.	Andrew Hoo.
Thomas Lenyngdon.	John Lokes.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Zepyswith.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Wyrthman.
John Leyr.	

Et ceux ssont les psônes q ssont entre en le dit Comp<sup>e</sup>. en temps  
de John Maryns & Rich<sup>d</sup>. de Ayllisbury.

Sir John Goffeld.	Thomas Symond.
Sir Rob <sup>t</sup> . Yllerika.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Foxston.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Dirneshman.	Walter Seyland.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Olleford.	John Vyaunde.
John Sproxmeth.	John Walsyngham.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Colyns.	Thomas Hoo.
Cimon Frunteye.	Lothro Gonats.
John Sweneford.	Richard Ganyell.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Maykelke.	Will <sup>m</sup> . Chychely.
Rawlyn Olgar.	Rob <sup>t</sup> . Reson.
Step <sup>n</sup> . Melkod.	John Goneshale.
John Groos.	John Bokkele.
John Bonesale.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Molle.
Will <sup>m</sup> . Staundon.	Rich <sup>d</sup> . Clerke.
John Bek.	Thomas Gernets.
Richard Sutton.	Henry Yrlands.
Thomas Att Melle.	Rob <sup>t</sup> . Reynald.
Robert Ferthyng.	John Grose.
John Clepton.	Thomas Ottele.
Henry Stacy.	Thomas Spylleman.
Walter Wyks.	Hugh Falstolf.
Rich <sup>d</sup> . Skotard.	Nicholas Heathe.
Rob <sup>t</sup> . Peper.	

## No. 4.

WARDENS ACCOUNT IN THE REIGN OF HENRY IV.  
ANNO 1401.

En le nom de Dieu & sa douce mere, lundy le xxix. jo<sup>r</sup>. de mars, l'an du Grace m,cccc,j, & l'an du Roy Henry Quarte, puisse la conqueste tierce.

Ceux sont les costages q, les ditz mestres  
*Henry Halton & Robert Hackston* ont  
 feat en lor temps. Prmement ont paie p<sup>r</sup> le  
 saleyre de Sir Rog<sup>r</sup>. lo<sup>r</sup>. Chapeleyne c'est as-  
 savoir de pask en pask .....

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
	vj	xij	iv

*Itm.* paie p<sup>r</sup>. le rent de nre meason en le tour  
 en Bokelersbury p<sup>r</sup>. un an, c'est assavoir de la  
 feyste de Seint John Baptist l'an du Roy iii  
 tant au feste du Seint John l'an ivii .....

	xxxij	iv
--	-------	----

*Itm.* paie a le Bedyl Rob<sup>t</sup>. Sterm po<sup>r</sup>. son sa-  
 lerye po<sup>r</sup>. un an de may tante a may .....

	lijj	iv
--	------	----

*Itm.* po<sup>r</sup>. son vesture encontre nowell po<sup>r</sup>. iii  
 verges d<sup>r</sup>p de verd .....

	vij	
--	-----	--

*Itm.* paie a le prestre po<sup>r</sup>. payn, vyn &  
 chandell po<sup>r</sup>. chaunter messe .....

	ij	
--	----	--

*Itm.* paie po<sup>r</sup>. vij mynstrales po<sup>r</sup>. chevaucher \*  
 avec les viscom<sup>t</sup> R. Chychley & S. Mar-  
 lowe .....

	xlvj	vijj
--	------	------

*Itm.* po<sup>r</sup>. drap de lo<sup>r</sup>. chaprons & po<sup>r</sup>. le  
 fessure .....

	vijj	x
--	------	---

*Itm.* po<sup>r</sup>. lo<sup>r</sup>. dyner & po<sup>r</sup>. vyn po<sup>r</sup>. boyre au  
 ditz mynstralles .....

	xvj	
--	-----	--

*Itm.* po<sup>r</sup>. un cheval por. un bedel a mesme  
 temps .....

	xijj	
--	------	--

*Itm.* nous avons paie po<sup>r</sup>. le chevache du John  
 Walcote Mayr, po<sup>r</sup>. vj mynstralles po<sup>r</sup>. lo<sup>r</sup>.

	xl	
--	----	--

saleire .....

	vijj	
--	------	--

*Itm.* por. lor. chaprons and po<sup>r</sup>. lor. fessure ..

--	--	--

\* Anglicé to ride. Chevache was a riding or procession on horseback.  
 See No. 6, in the Appendix, for an explanation.

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Itm.</i> por. lor. dyner & por. vyn por. le chemyn.....		xxi	
<i>Itm.</i> po <sup>r</sup> . un cheval por. le bedyl.....		iiij	
Cestes sont les costages q. nons avons featz & payes a la venue du Roygne Johane iadys Duchesse de Bretaygn* pr. couronement paie a Robert Sterm, bedel por. ses despences quant il chevachoit en Sowthfolk po <sup>r</sup> . fere le garnysement por. les mynstralles de sa venue.....		vij	vij
<i>Itm.</i> paie a Panel mynstrale & a ses v compaynons le jour q. nous chevauchames a le Blakheth .....	ijij		
<i>Itm.</i> paie po <sup>r</sup> . lor. chaprons & po <sup>r</sup> . lor. fessures .....	x	ij	
<i>Itm.</i> po <sup>r</sup> . lor. dyner & po <sup>r</sup> . vyn .....	ij		
<i>Itm.</i> paie au ditz mynstralles lendemain & quant le Roygne passoit pīmye le Chepe vers Westmenstre .....	xijij	iv	
<i>Itm.</i> po <sup>r</sup> . vyn en Chepe por. les mynstralles ..	xijij		
<i>Itm.</i> po <sup>r</sup> . un cheval po <sup>r</sup> . le Bedel .....	xij		
<i>Itm.</i> nous avons expendus le jour de elecion des nouvell mestres en payn, vyn, cuoystre, blaundrett & formage.....	xvj		
<i>Itm.</i> pr. ij chapelettes po <sup>r</sup> . couron <sup>r</sup> . les nouvels mestres .....	xx		
Sm <sup>tō</sup> . de les achates & de les costages			
xxijlb. ivs. iiid.			

\* “ In the sayde yere King Henrie maried Jane Duches of Briteyne, late wife to John Duke of Briteyne, at the Citie of Winchester, and with all tryумphant pompe conveyed her through the Citie of London to Westminster, and there she was crowned Queene.”—*Grafton's Chronicle*, vol. i. p. 488.

## No. 5.

TRANSLATION FROM THE LATIN OF THE PATENT  
ROLL OF THE 26TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
KING HENRY VI.

*Granting to the Grocers' Company the Privilege of Garbling  
and Examining Drugs, Spices, &c. A.D. 1447.*

THE KING, to all whom, &c. greeting,—know ye that we, considering how much it will be for the general good and advantage of all the subjects of our kingdom of England, that all sort of spices and merchandizes as well annis, cummin, wormseed, wax, alum, kermes,—as pepper, ginger, cloves, mace, cinnamon, rhubarb, scammony, spikenard, turpentine, senna, almonds, dates, rosin, treacle, electuaries, syrups, waters, oils, ointments, plasters, powders, and all conserves and confections,—as gum, ginger, succades, cardamums, and all sorts of merchandizes, spices, and drugs, in any wise belonging to medicines, and whatsoever shall by sufficient officers skilled in the premises of this kind whom we are pleased to depute and appoint, duly and justly to supervise, garbel, search, examine, and prove, to the purpose and intent, that none of our subjects aforesaid may in future be deprived of benefit in buying any of the aforesaid merchandizes, spices, and drugs,—nor by the buying of these kind to be in anywise hurt in their bodily health; whereas it so appears as is alledged that merchandizes, spices, and drugs of the sort above mentioned, for defect of officers of this kind, are not duly supervised, garbelled, searched, examined, and duly proved, but are daily sold to our said subjects not at all cleansed, garbelled, and searched, to the manifest deceipt and hurt of our subjects in this behalf; therefore, for a due and just remedy to be thereupon had, We, of our special favour, have ordained, constituted, and appointed our beloved William Wetnale, Richard Hakedy, and Thomas Gibbes, Wardens of the Mistery of Grocers of our City of London, to garbel all these kind of spices and merchandizes above specified and mentioned, in whosesoever hands they can find them, as well in the towns of Southampton and Sandwich as in all other places within our said kingdom, as well within liberties as without (our City aforesaid only excepted) to have and occupy the aforesaid

business for ever by themselves and their successors, Wardens of the Mistery aforesaid, or by their sufficient deputies by them with the general consent of their Mistery, from time to time, to be appointed for that purpose; and to receive and take in the said business such fees, profits, and advantages, as in our said City, heretofore, were used to be had and taken for such garbelling: and further, of our abundant favour, we have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed the aforesaid William, Richard, and Thomas, to supervise, search, examine, and prove all the spices, drugs, and merchandizes above specified and mentioned, whatsoever belongs to medicines in whosesoever hands they can find them within the City, towns, and places aforesaid, as well within liberties as without, to have and exercise the above business for ever by themselves and their successors, Wardens of the Mistery aforesaid, or by their deputies, who thereto by the same Wardens, with the general consent of the said Mistery, from time to time, shall be chosen; giving and granting to the said Wardens and their successors for ever, full license, power, and authority to garbel, supervise, search, examine, and prove, all sorts of merchandizes, spices, and drugs in manner and form aforesaid above recited: and furthermore, of our more abundant grace, we have granted that if any merchant or other person, native or foreigner, within our kingdom aforesaid, shall in future expose to sale any of the merchandizes, spices, and drugs, aforesaid, by the aforesaid Wardens or their successors, or their deputies, in manner aforesaid, not supervised, garbelled, searched, examined, and proved, that then the said merchandize, spices, and drugs, so by the said Wardens and their successors, or their deputies, not supervised, garbelled, searched, examined, or proved, shall immediately become forfeited to us, our successors, and that the aforesaid Wardens and their successors, or their deputies, and each of them, have full power and authority to seize the said forfeitures to the use of us, our heirs, and successors, and to make due execution in that behalf; and that the said Wardens and their successors shall answer to us, our heirs, and successors, annually, in our Exchequer at Westminster, concerning all these kind of forfeitures to us, for the causes aforesaid belonging, which shall become due; and that the said Wardens and their successors, for their care and diligence in this behalf, shall have and receive, to the use of the Mistery aforesaid, one half of all the forfeitures belonging

to us, our heirs, and successors, for the causes aforesaid, as often as they shall happen; and that for the said half part they shall have an allowance in their annual account at our said Exchequer, provided always that none of our subjects, by this our present grant, be in any wise damaged, because that express mention of the true yearly value of the premises in these presents made, does not appear any statute, ordinance, or act thereof, made, ordained, or provided to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

Witness the King at Westminster, 8th of March.

By writ of Privy Seal, and of the date aforesaid,  
by authority of Parliament.

### No. 6.]

#### SPECIMEN OF THE WARDENS' ACCOUNTS FOR ONE YEAR, IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VI.

JOHN WELLES, ALDERMAN.

In the name of Jhu. Thomas Catworthe & John Godyn,  
Wardeyns.

This is the aconte of the seide Thomas & John, Wardeynes, ffrom the xxv<sup>the</sup> day of Julye the yeer of Almyghtye God 1435, and of the reigne of the sixte Kyng Henry the xii; yeere, unto the xxvj<sup>the</sup> day of Julye the yeere of the seid Almyghtye God 1436, and of the reyne of the seid Kyng Henry the xiii<sup>th</sup>, that is to wyte be the tyme of there yeere.

	lb.	s.	d.
Resceyved ffurst of Will. Wettenhale &			
Thomas Cannynge of the residue of money			
left in there handes in the ende of there			
acomte the nexte to .....			
Also of Symkyn Groby & Thomas Chubbe			
executors of the testament of Rauf Gyleston			
to our almes and byldyng .....			
Also of Ray Symsone & W. Bray, execu-			
tors of Will. Bothe, Grocere, to our almes			
and byldyng .....			

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Also of John Tyntylden and Thomas Rokysley executors of John Dekene, Grocere, and his wyffe to our almes and byldyng .....	xiii	vi	viii
Also of Thomas, the son of Thomas Knollys Alderman, for makynge of our welle and the foundament of our kechene .....	vj	xiii	iv
Also of Thomas Burbache, garbellour, for ii yeeres.....	iiii		
Also of the sm <sup>tō</sup> . of a rest of certeyn dettours of xliliilb. from y <sup>e</sup> aconte of W. Wettenhale & T. Cannyngh's tyme due to the Groceres and assignyd to us to paye the dette of the Companye .....	xi	xiii	iv
Also receyved be the handis of John Bacon and John Maldon, collectours chosen be the Companye of the mony igranted be certeyn persones of the crafte to the purchasyng a peice of the voyde ground sum tyme the Loord Fitzwalter's halle .....	xxxij	xvij	vij
Also of Syr Henry Bromflete, Knyght, for his entre into our clothyng & Brotherhode	xx		
Also of Thomas Broun, Squier, for his entre in like wise .....	xx		
Also of John Chicheley, Chambyrleyn of London, be the hand John of Wellys, Al- derman, ffor the half deel of xx mark of a fyne of grene zz. imaad to the chambre....	vi	xiii	iv
Also of John de Marcatono for a pipe of wyne .....	liii	iv	
Also rec <sup>d</sup> of certeyn psōnes of the craft for waiges of ii speres and iiii bowes, sowdiers, ffor the sauf kepyng of Caleys agenst the seige of the fals pretendyng Duke of Bur- goyne.....	xij	xvij	x
Also rec <sup>d</sup> . of certeyn psōnes of the craft be the handes of Thomas Catworthe for the pro- vydyng clothing of Roger Otteley chlosyn Meir lvlb. xiiis. ixd. Also rec <sup>d</sup> . be the handes of John Godyn ffor the same clothyng xxvjs.	lvi	xix	ix

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Also receyvyd xvlb. viis. viijd. of alle mannr. of fynes be the handes of Thomas Cattes- worthe. Also rec <sup>d</sup> . xvijlb. vd. of alle mann. of fynes receyvyd be the handes of John Godyn .....	xxxii	xix	viii
Also receyvyd of dyverse personnes of the craft for the coste of murrey and plunket clothe, clxxiiij yerds & i qr., with the preste money, & withouten xl ix yerds & i half of the same cloth igiven & lent & unpaide.....	cxix	xix	xi
Also, charge for emplusage of the same clo- thyng, levynge in myne handes iiijlbs. xjs. viijd. Item, dettes after certen acconte not here ..	iiij	xi	vijj
Item, receyvyd of Will <sup>m</sup> . Bazet, for the rente of Will <sup>m</sup> . Staundon, be the handes of Thomas Catworthe, iiijlb. vis. viijd. Item, be the handes of John Godyn xijlb. for ii yeeres' rente.....	xvij	vi	vijj
Also, receyvyd of Will <sup>m</sup> . Wettenhale & Thomas Canynge, of mony ileft in ther handes in the ende of ther acconte of the receyit of mony of the rente sum tyme of Will <sup>m</sup> . Cam- brigge, atte Stokkes .....	vj	viii	ix
Also, receyvyd of the tenante, atte Stokkes,* ffor the ij yeres fr. the tyme of our acconte the same rente .....	xxxv	v	iiij
Item, receyvyd be the handes of Thomas Cat- worthe, of John Maldon, Wardeyn, new chosen for the residue of a vewe of this acconte imaad be the seyde Thomas Cat- worthe .....	li	ii	
Sm <sup>t<sup>o</sup></sup> . receyvyd be Thomas Catworthe lxxvijlb. xixs. iiijd.			
Sm <sup>t<sup>o</sup></sup> . receyvyed be John Godyn mxxxiijlb. iiiis. ijd.	miiijxii	iii	vj
Remembryd be itt that the wyfe of John Deken executrix with his othir co-executors, renderyd			

\* Stock's Market. It was situated in Cornhill, near the Conduit.

to the Companie of Grocers an obligacon due to her husbande atte ende of his acconte and John Bacone as it apperith in this booke atte 109 leef, but ffor as much as we no mony thereof receyvyd nethir paid, we charge us not; the Sm<sup>t</sup>. of the obligacon is ixlb. xvjs.

Also, in like wise, was pardonyd to Will<sup>m</sup>. Serle, Carpenter, iijlb. as it apperith atte seide 109 leef, in the same acconte. Wherefore we charge us not but acconte of No.

*The Paiement and Discharge of Thomas Catworthe and John Godyn.*

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Ffurst paid for pavyngtyle & pavyng of the tresance betwene the two halle dores to a carpenter and the masons .....		xxxii	vj
Paid to Hughe, glazier, ffor certeyn wyndowes in our halle qteynynge i <sup>o</sup> .iiii feet, for John Deken & W <sup>m</sup> . Loxley, at ixd. a fote.....		vj	xv
Paid to John Wellys, Alderman, for olde dette due to hym atte the ende of the acconte of John Bacon and John Dekene.....	xx		
Also, paid to Will <sup>m</sup> . Serle, carpenter, due to hym atte tyme of acconte of John Bacon & John Dekene, for his rewarde of cs. assigned to hym in pleyn peyment thereof, xls. & the iijlb. be pardonyd .....		xl	
Also, paid to John Carpenter the mairalte dew ffor the ground in the Groceres' Hall, lying be the Olde Jeurye, ipurchased ayeer ....	xl		
Paid to Will <sup>m</sup> . Burton moytie of paiement of olde dette due to hym atte ende of his acconte .....	li	i	
Paid to our almesmen be the space of ii yeeres ffurst be the handys of Thomas Catworthe, iiiilb. viijs. and be John Godyn xvlb. viijs..	xix	xvi	
Paid be the handys of John Godyn for myn-			

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
stralls and there hodys,* amendyng of banneres, and hire of barges with Thomas Catworth & Robert Clopton, chosen Shye-revis,† goyng be water to Westmynster . . .	iiij	vj	iii
Paid to ij speres and iiiij bowes sent be the Company of Groceres for the sauf kepyng of Caleys agenst the seige of the fals Duke of Burgoyne .....	xij		xx
And be the handys of Thomas Catworthe for pty costages and collacons vjs. vjd. and be the handes of John Godyn xl. xvij. ijd..	xj	iiii	vij
Paid be the handys of Thomas Catworthe for a dyner maad to the newe maistres and the Companye atte audite.....	iiij	ii	ix
Paid be the handys of Thomas Catworthe to Sir Steven Flour, preste of the Groceres, in partie of paiement of his salarye for ii yeeres of our tyme iijlb. vjs. viid., and be John Godyn xl. ....	xij	vi	viii
Paid ffor the waiges of masons makynge the welle, the fundament of the kychene, and the northwalle and wyndowes of the pantre and botelrye vijlb. xvs. ijd. Item Skaffoldes & necessaries for the masons and laborers xlvijs. vd. Item. For waiges and rewardes of laborers, xijlb. xiiij. vjd. ....	xxij	xvij	ii
Payde for stuf of lyme, sand mesth <sup>m</sup> . ston, chalk and fferrement of iryng .....	xiiii	iiij	vi
Item, be the handes of Catteworthe, for costages of the gardyn, iiijs. viijd. ; and be the handes of John Godyn, for makynge the erber,‡ carvyng newe raylyng of al the vynes & gardyne, vijlb. viijs. vijd. ....	vij	xij	iii
Also, paid for costis, ffreight, cariage, whar-vage & pilyng up of ii shippes of waloill,§ conteynyng xlviij. <sup>o</sup> iii. v. oyll, igebyn to			

\* Hoods.

† Sheriffs.

‡ Arbour.

§ Whaleoil, qy? This is a very singular item, which it is difficult to explain or understand.

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
the felauhyp be Thomas the sone of Thomas Knollys .....	xliij	vi	
Paid be T. Catworthe for rent & socage of the Groceres' Halle, to John Carpenter, iiis. viijd. and be J. Godyn iijs. viiid. for ii yers the tyme of aconte .....	vii	iv	
Paid be T. Catworthe to John Dalton, Bedell, ffor his wages of a yeere xxxijs. iiijd. and paid to Will <sup>m</sup> . Heylyngsegge, Bedell, be J. Godyn ffor a yeere iiib. xs. Sm <sup>t</sup> o for 2 yeeres vlb. ....	vi	xiii	iv
Paid be Th <sup>s</sup> . Catworthe to John Smyth in p <sup>tie</sup> . of paiement of his wages, xvis. viijd. Item, be John Godyn, xxvs. ....	xli	viij	
Paid ffor plee & costis of grene zz,* be advyse of all the craft serchid & arrestid, with the costis of x butts & vi roundeletts of resins of Corent, iiij bales of Canell, & a bale of zz, ffals and deffectiff garbelling of pepper & cloves, & alle other ffalse wayeing presented by an enquest.....	vj	xij	ix
Paid to dame Edith Cambrigge for iij yeeres' rente of here dower the day of recone agenst the Wardeyns & the Companye of Grocers.	xvij		
Paid to her also for a yeere after that we hadde itaken it to ferme of her be endenture ....	iiij		
Paid to the rente gaderer ffor ij yeers laboryng abouten reparacon & gaderyng of the seide rente .....	xij	iv	
Paid for quiterente of Cambrigge's rente atte Stokkes to the Abbot of Bermondseye ffor ii yeeres the tyme of our aconte .....	xij		
Paid to Cambrigge's preste be Thomas Catworthe xxxijs. ivd. Item, be John Godyn full payement of ij yeeres' wages xiib. xiijs. ivd. ....	xij	vi	iv
Paid for the seid rente for newe latthyng & tylng of alle the old rente & reparacion of old & newe, & amendyng of alle faultes ..	x	xvi	vii

\* I imagine this to mean ginger.

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Paid be the handis of Thomas Catworthe be the space of ii yeeres ffor the tenement of Will <sup>m</sup> . Cambrigge and wax ifounden in his chappell xxxiijs. and be John Godyn xliijs. vjd. .... ....	iiiij		vi
Paid be Thomas Catworthe to the preste of Will <sup>m</sup> . Staundon, & ffor his obite ij yeer, vlb. vis. viijd. and be J. Godyn xijlb. ....	xvij	vi	vij
Paid ffor the clothyng murrey and plunket celstyne,* conteyning iii <sup>c</sup> .xxxii yerdis i quartr. with alle vestages .... ....	ciii	xi	ix
Paid be Thomas Catworthe ffor xx clothis of lynesey agenst the ryding† of Robert Otte-			

\* This was for the liveries, which appear to have varied in the colours from time to time.

In 1444 is an entry stating—

“ recd. of owre brethren of ye. crafte for owre liverie, }  
“ scarlette & greene.” } £166 15 11

in 1448 it is mentioned as “ scarlette & blacke ;”

in 1450 the clothing is described as “ vyolette in grayn for  
“ gownes & for hoodys, parted with cremesyn.”

† The custom of this, and, doubtless the other Companies, joining the Mayor & Sheriffs in procession, to meet the Sovereigns on their public entry into the City, or on Lord Mayor's Day, is detailed in an ordinance termed, “ *an acte of mercymēt*:” that is, of amercing or fining. It ordains, that whoever should omit to come in due time, when warned by the beadle, to the court quarter-day, “ to ryding against ye King, Queene, or other Lords, with the Maire, Sheryff, or going on pcession with the Maire, as comon course is, at Cristmasse and other tymes, congregacons, or any other thynges,” that they be warned to pay the penalty or amercement to the beadle, or, if they omitted till the Master came, they were to pay the double. The mult being “ for the Kyng, Queene, or Maire's ridyng, fyne iiis. iiijd.” and on other occasions 12*d.* or 2*s.* Chaucer makes these *Ridings*, as they were called, or royal processions into the City, a great inducement to the City apprentices to neglect their occupations: he says,—

“ A prentis whilom dwelt in our Citee,  
“ At eyery bride-ale would he sing and hoppe ;  
“ He loved bet the taverne than the shoppe,  
“ For, when ther any *riding* was in Chepe,  
“ Out of the shoppe thider wold he lepe,  
“ And 'til thus he had all the sight ysein,  
“ And danced wel, he wold not come agen.”

	<i>lb.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
ley, Mayor, xlviib. Item. Sheryng of the same, xxss. ....			
Item. Wagis for mynstralls be Thomas Catworthe, vlb. xijs. viijd. Item. Hodys & makyng xxxs. xd. Item. A hors for Dalton vid. ....	xlvij		
Smtō. pd. be Thomas Catworthe } lxxvijlb. xixs. iiijd. }	vii	iiij	
Smtō. pd. be John Godyn } iiiicxxix ii x iiicilb. iijs. vid.			

## No. 7.

## WEIGH-HOUSE.

*The Grocers' Company* having the charge and management of the public scale, or King's Beam, made the following tariff of charges in the year 1453.

In the tyme of Richd. Lee, Will. Taylor, & John Basingthwayte beyng Wardeyns,

This imposicion was maad &ordeyned by the Wardeynes & the feleshepe associed, the xxi daye of Juin in the yere of owre Lord m.cccc.liij, and alle the names of them folowe in wrytinge that were at this ordenaunce makyng, for wele of the beem.

	<i>d.</i>
Furste, for Pepper, 1 bale.....	xx
Safron, 1 cak .....	xx
Clowes, 1 bale, ye C. ....	vij
Mac, 1 bale or barel .....	vij
Greynes, 1 balet, ye C. ....	xij
Cynamon, 1 kase be it gret or smal .....	vj
Gynger, case or bale, ye C. ....	iiij
Nottemeg, 1 bale, ye C. ....	iiij
Long Pepper, d. ye C. ....	ij
Flowre of Alman, eny draught.....	iiij
Reysens of Corent, ye butte, } ye C. ....	j
Reysens of Corent, ye barell, } ye C. ....	vj
Gynger, ye barel, ye C. ....	vj
	y

	d.
Galyngale, y <sup>e</sup> bale, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	iiij
Drugges, eny draught .....	ij
Woode, y <sup>e</sup> balett .....	ij
Mader, y <sup>e</sup> bale .....	v
Alumi, foyle or rooch, y <sup>e</sup> bale .....	iiij
Yorns (horns), y <sup>e</sup> tunne .....	iiij
Tyn, y <sup>e</sup> peece .....	ij
Leed, y <sup>e</sup> ffodder.....	iiij
Coton, y <sup>e</sup> bale .....	iiij
Coton, Cyprus or basselan, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	ij
Ryse, y <sup>e</sup> bale.....	ij
Comyn and Anneys, y <sup>e</sup> bale.....	iiij
Soope, y <sup>e</sup> pype .....	iiij
Almaunds, y <sup>e</sup> bale .....	ijj
Wex, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	ij
Dates, y <sup>e</sup> bale .....	ij
Saunders and Brasile,* y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	ijj
Argent Vyff, y <sup>e</sup> bolyon .....	iiij
Vermelion, y <sup>e</sup> lof .....	iiij
Verdegres, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	iiij
Salt Peter, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	ij
Brymston, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	i
Reed Copper, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	i
Grey Copper, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	i
Flex, y <sup>e</sup> C. ....	ii
And al maner other merchandises y <sup>t</sup> comyth to ye beem and is not comprehendid in this wrytynge, to paye for the bales of ev'ry xx lb. ....	i

Signed by the members in the manner following, *viz.*

I, RICH. LEE, am content.

I, WILL. MAROWE, am content.

I, WILL. TAYLOR, am content.

&c<sup>e</sup>. &c<sup>e</sup>.

\* It is inconceivable how the name of “Brasile” wood came into this list, which was entered in the Company’s books in 1453. The Brasils were not discovered by *Pedro Alvarez de Cabral*, until the 25th April 1500, eight years after the first discovery of America by Columbus.—*Reynal. Histoire des deux Indes*, vol. ii. p. 360; *Irring’s Life of Columbus*, vol. iii. p. 155.

## No. 8.

A FYNE OF RICHARD HAALE AND THOMAS HOOE.  
1456.

M<sup>m</sup>. That the xxij day of March, An<sup>o</sup> lvj, was Richard Haale and Thomas Hooe befoore the Wardeynes of y<sup>e</sup> feleshepe associed, and there examined for offences doon in enhaunsyng<sup>e</sup> and willynge to putte Edmunde Tervyle owt of his howse. And the sayd Richard and Thomas ther opynly confessed themselves and weren founden defectyf, for which offens, don contrarye the good old ordenaunce wretyn; the Wardeyns and the feleshepe associed, have fully concluded that the sayd Richard and Thomas shall bryng<sup>e</sup> in x£ sterlynges, accordynge to y<sup>e</sup> sayd ordeneance. At which fyne-makyng<sup>e</sup> was psente my maystre John Walden, Alderman Rob<sup>t</sup> Carstange and Edward Warmyngton, Wardeynes, John Maldon, John Blaunch, Henre Haale, Willām Edwards, George Erland, and John Alyn. And the v<sup>e</sup> daye of Apryll next followynge was fully concluded by the Wardeynes and the feleshepe associed, that Edmund Tervyle shulde have delyvred to hym by the sayd Wardeynes v£ sterlynges of the sayd x£, and the Wardeynes to kepe the othyr v£ sterlynges accordynge to ther olde ordeneance ..... v£ The ordinance, in virtue of which the above fine was levied, is as follows:—

“ *An ordeneance y<sup>t</sup> no man put other owt of his howse.*  
 “ Alsoe it is ordened by the coomon assente of this fraternite  
 “ y<sup>t</sup> no man of the fraternite take his neyghbor’s howse y<sup>t</sup> is of  
 “ the same fraternite, or enhawnce the rent agenst the wille of  
 “ the forseid neyghbor. Who that is fownde in the defawte shall  
 “ paye att the tyme x£, y<sup>t</sup> is to weten, v£ to the fraternite, and  
 “ v£ to hym y<sup>t</sup> is thus put owte of his howse.”

## A FYNE OF JOHN AYSHFELDE.

“ M<sup>m</sup>. That John Ayshfelde hath putt hym to rewle for  
 “ offens don in makyng<sup>e</sup> of untrewe powder gynger, cynamon,

“ and saunders, for whiche offens doon, the Wardeynes and the  
 “ feliship associed be fully accorded that he shalle maak a fyne of  
 “ vjs. and viijd.; and in case so be y<sup>at</sup> he be fownde in suche  
 “ another trespass that then he to be rewled by the avyse of the  
 “ Wardeynes and the felishipe associed; what they wil do ther in  
 “ hye & lowe.”

### A FYNE OF JOHN FREYNCHE. 1456.

“ M<sup>m</sup>. Y<sup>t</sup> the xxj day of Juin, anno lvj, hath John Freynch  
 “ putt him to rewle for offens doon in rydynge in to countre  
 “ with wares unsolde; for which offens doon, y<sup>e</sup> Wardeynes and  
 “ the felishipe associed have fully concluded y<sup>t</sup> he shall paye  
 “ iijs. iiijd.”

### No. 9.

#### PLATE BELONGING TO THE COMPANY.

List of the Company's plate, at various periods, to which are added the names of the donors of a portion of it. It will give the reader an idea of the splendour with which the Company were enabled to give their entertainments at the early periods specified.

1465. ii Galon Pottis chased and half gylte whiche *Thomas Hawkins*, Grocer, gaff unto this fraternite, the whiche weyen xxij marke & iiij ounces of Troye weyghe.  
 ii Basens and ij ewers of sylver parcell gylte with foldis in the prynjis, and the basens weyinge viij lbs. of Troye weyghe saf half an ownce; and the ewers weyinge xlij ownces, whiche *Nicholas Wyfold*, Grocer & Alderman, gaff unto this fraternite.  
 A Stondynge Cuppe, cover of sylver, pcell gilte, weyinge of Troye weyghe xlivij ownces & iii qrt<sup>s</sup> of an ownce, whiche *Robert Garstange*, Grocer, gaff unto this fraternite.  
 A Stondynge Cuppe, cover of sylver and alle gilte, pownsed, weyinge of Troye weyghe xxxj ownces and a half, whiche *Margeri Burton*, late wedow and a suster of this feliship gaff unto this fraternite.

A stondynge cuppe, cover of sylver, chased and alle gylte,  
weyinge xvij ownces and a half & half a qrt<sup>r</sup>. ownce of  
Troye weyghte, whiche *Thomas Spycer*, Grocer, gaff  
unto this fraternite.

1466. A Stondynge Cuppe of sylver, with a cover, weighing 24  
ownces Troye, given by *Thomas Swetenham*, Grocer.  
“ *Jhu be mercyfull to his sowle.*”

1467. Of the gifte of *John Godyn*, Grocer.  
“ *Jhu have mercye on his sowle.*”

A Stondynge Cuppe, cover of sylver and alle gylte, with  
roses and sonnes (suns) weyinge xxxij ownces.

Of the gifte of *Sir John Howard, Knight*. A Stondynge  
Cuppe and cover of sylver and alle gylte, weying xvij  
ownces & half troye weyghte.

“ *God send him long life & welfare.*”

1493. The gifte of *Thomas Hoo*, Grocer. Two nutts garnyshed  
with sylver gylte.

1506. A Standynge Cupp and Cover alle gylt, powdered with  
oken leavis, w<sup>t</sup>. 44 ownces, given by *William Lawrence*.

Six Gobelettes, parcell gylte, with a cover, weying 116  
ownces, given by *Angell Dunn*.

1507. A gift of £10, by *Thomas Steyd*, son of *Alderman Steyd*, towards “ makyng of a salte of sylver weying  
“ 9 ownces.”

1523. A memorandum occurs this year, of £162 . 15 . 4. received  
for plate pledged to *Alderman Lambard*, which in 1530 is  
redeemed for £279 . 14 . 8.

There are many other entries of plate in the books, but what  
precedes is considered sufficient to shew the mode in which the  
register was kept.

When any member of the Grocers' Company was elected to fill  
the offices of Sheriff or Lord Mayor, he usually made application  
on occasions of festivals, for the loan of the Company's plate.  
This continued to be granted for many years, on security being  
given to the Wardens for the value of the plate. The following  
is an example, inserted in the books in November 1569 :—  
“ Agreeede, on the entreatie of Mr. Box, a member of this Com-  
“ panie, elected Sheryffe, to have a loane of some of the Com-  
“ panie's Plate for publique daies ; that is, 3 basins, 8 ewers.

“ and 3 saltes and their covers; alsoe two dozen of silver spoones  
 “ to be lent, besides certaine naperie.”

## No. 10.

WARDENS' ACCOUNTS RESPECTING MATTERS OF  
TRIUMPH.—ANNO 1617.

THIS IS THE ACCOMPTE AND REKONYNG of John Granadge, Ralph Kinge, George Walham, and Henry Brooke, Wardens of the bachelors of the right worshipfull Company of Grocers of the City of London, appoynted by a Court of Assistants of the sayd Company, the first day of October, *Anno Dom<sup>i</sup>. 1617.* Of all their receipts and payments, charge and discharge, concernyng matters of Triumphe pformed by the sayd Company in the honor of the right honourable Mr. George Bolles, Alderman, a most honourable and worthy member of the sayd Company, Lord Maior of the sayd City, from the sayd first day of October 1617, *Annoque Regis Jacobi Angliae quintodecimo*, untill this present fifth day of May 1618, *Annoque R<sup>s</sup>. Jacobi Angl. 16<sup>o</sup>.* The piculders whereof ensue, viz<sup>t</sup>.

The receipts from the Livery are noted, with the names of the contributors, at length; but, as such details would occupy more space than is necessary, it is thought sufficient to give the amounts received from the different classes of Members.

“ Some of all the receipts of the Bachelers*	in foynes		
“ is as before .....		£393	0

\* In 1562, during the mayoralty of Sir Thomas Lodge, the following order, relating to the dress of the bachelors, was issued by the Court of Assistants. “ Ordered, that the 70 bachilors, nor any of them, shall weare anye kind of furs in their gownes, but onlye foynes and budge, and not to have any guards of velvet in their gownes, but onlye welts, nor use anye unreasonable rasss in their shirts, but onlye black and white; their doublets to be of black satten, and they with coats or jacketts of satten or damaske, and of no other colour; and the Wardeyns to weare russet satten in their doublets. The Wardeyns of the Grocers, and the Wardeyns of the Bachillors to cesse both the livery of the bachillors, and all the Companie of the yeomanry for the furniture of the poor men's gownes, the pageant the first, and other great charges that must be done when my Lord Mayor elect shall go to Westminster, as to them shall be thought meet.”

	Brought forward.....	£393	0	0
" Some	of all the receipts of the Bachelors in budge			
" "	is as before .....	162	4	0
" Some	of all the receipts of the speciaall Contributors			
" "	is as before .....	258	2	8
" Some	of all the receipts of the generall Contribu-			
" "	tors as before .....	71	6	2
" Soe	the whole some of all the sayd receipts,			
" "	wherewith the sayd Wardens doe charge them-			
" "	selves, is .....	£884	12	10

" Eight hundred and fower score and  
 " fower poundes, twelve shillings,  
 " and ten pence."

THE DISCHARGE of the sayd Wardens of all the receipts afore-sayd, as followeth, viz.

Moneys payde for the poore men's gownes, coates, cappes, sleeves, &c.

	£ s. d.
Payde for 28 azure couloured cloathes for the poore men's gownes, to dyvers old workes, &c. .....	159 4 6
Payde to dyvers taylors for making of 124 gownes, after xii d. a peece .....	6 4 0
Besides which parcell of gownes there was given in cloth to the clerk, the 2 beadles, the clerk's man, and the 2 saunderbeaters, 3 yards & $\frac{1}{2}$ a peece.	
Payde to Roger Clarke, Mercer, for 20 peeces of crimson <i>mochados</i> * to make sleeves for the poore men, and to face the beadle's streamer and banner-bearers' coates .....	10 0 0
Carried forward.....	<hr/> £175 8 6

\* Mochado was a manufacture of silk, in great vogue at this period, as appears by the following list of stuffs quoted by a contemporary poet:—

" Alas! what would our silk mercers be?  
 " What would they do, sweet hempseed, but for thee?  
 " Rash, taffeta, paropa, and novato,  
 " Shagge, filizetta, damaske, and *mochado*."  
*Taylor's "Praise of Hempseed," annexed in a Note to Beaumont and Fletcher's Comedy of "Wit at several Weapons."*

	Brought forward.....	£175	8	6
Payde to dyvers taylors for making of 38 blew coates, viz. 26 for the beadles of the 4 hospitalls, and for the banner and streamer bearers, at 14d. a peece	2	4	4	
Payde to dyvers taylors for making of 124 paire of sleeves, at 2d. a peece.....	1	0	8	
Payde to Thomas Hinkman, Capper, for 10 dozen of round cappes, and 5 dozen and 3 long cappes, at 24s. the doz. .....	18	3	0	
Payde to certeyn beadles, besides long cappes and ribbons, for their dynners & attendance in this servyce done; 12d. a peece, viz. 4 of every hos- pitall.....	0	16	0	
Payde to 16 poore men, for their servyce in carryinge of the streamers, banners, & other thinges, in respect they had noe coates .....	4	0	0	
Payde to 10 others of the sayde banner and streamer bearers which had coates, for their dynners, 12d. a peece .....	0	10	0	
Payde and given to a poore man .....	0	4	0	
Payde and given to Thomas Hunt, porter, being hurt in the servyce .....	0	5	0	
Payde to Mr. Harman, keeper of the Guildhall, for the charge of Mercer's hangings, as followeth, viz. for Mr. Dolby, his fee, 5s. for carrying them to and from the Guildhall, 2s. for timber, hooks, hanging them upp and taking them downe againe, 5s., total is as p <sup>r</sup> bill .....	0	12	0	
	£203	3	6	
Payde and given in benevolence to certain poore men which had not gownes .....	£10	5	0	

Their names are enumerated, and the sum given to each detailed.

#### WHIFFELERS staves, and others.

Payde to John Edwardes, for 24 dozen of white staves  
for the Whiffelers, the Marshalls and their men.

£ s. d.

the porters which carried the pageant, and for the Weymaster and his porters, which attended at the Guildhall .....	£4	17	8
More to him for the hire of 124 javelins.....	1	13	4
More for two new banner staves .....	0	8	0
More payde for the new guylding of the auncyent head, and for coulloring the staffe .....	0	7	0
	<b>£7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

### TORCHES and Linkes.

Payde to William Uffington for 49 dozen of large staffe torches at 15s. per dozen .....	36	15	0
More to him for 10 dozen and $\frac{1}{2}$ of small torches at 9s. per dozen, and for 5 dozen and $\frac{1}{2}$ of linkes at 2s. 6d. per dozen, for to light the pageant and other shewes from Leaden-hall over night to Carter Lane and other places appointed—in toto..	5	8	3
	<b>£42</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

### THE FOISTE and other Fire Works.

Payde to John Kellock for the whole charge of the foiste and a galley, and for his servyce with men, shott, powder, cassocks, colours and all other necessaries for them, the some of .....	32	10	0
Payde and given in benevolence to the fierman or greeneman over and about his agreement, the some of .....	0	11	0
	<b>£33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

### THE PEALES.

Payde to Robert Bevis Connor, for the charge of six score chambers, twice shot of, the some of..	£31	0	0
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## TRUMPETORS.

	£ s. d.
Payde to John Smyth, John Fowkes, Anthony Denham and others his Maties Trumpetors for all demands, for 32 trumpetors, with a boy to sound in the shipp, which were present in the shewe according to the accustomed manner, the full some of .....	26 0 0
Payde to the Sargeant Trumpetor for his fee ....	0 11 0
	<hr/> £26 11 0

## WAIGITES of the City.

Payde to the waigites of the city for their servyce all the fyve dayes, the some of .....	2 13 4
More to the Churchwardens of St. Peter's in Cheape, for the use of the place where the sayde waigites stand to play all the sayd time, as by their acquittance appeareth .....	0 3 4
	<hr/> £2 16 8

## DRUMERS, Piffes, Auncyents and Florishers.

Payde to Robert Crought and others, for the servyce of 8 drumes and 4 pfifes, they furnyshing themselves with blacke hatts, white doublets, blacke hose and white stockings and with scarfes according to the culler of the Comp <sup>r</sup> , with xijd. given to a little boy which played on the drum in the ship, the some of .....	12 11 0
More payde to fower Auncyent bearers, they furnyshing themselves w <sup>th</sup> all things necessary ....	4 0 0
Payde to John Bradshawe for himself and 18 fellow florishers with long swordes for their servyce....	7 0 0
	<hr/> £23 11 0

## CHARGE OF THE PAGEANT,

*Charyott, Iland, Castle, Shipp, with all the several Beasts  
which drew them:—*

£ s. d.

Payde to Thomas Middleton, gent. for the ordering, over seeing and writyng of the whole devyse, for the making of the Pageant of Nations, the Iland, the In- dian Chariot, the Castle of Fame, tryīning the Shipp, with all the several beastes which drew them, and for all the carpenter's work, paynting, guylding and garnyshing of them, with all other things necessary for the apparelling and finding of all the personages in the sayd shewes, and for all the portage and carriage, both by land and by water, for the lighters for the shew by water, for payn- ting of a banner of the Lord Mayor's armes, and also in full for the greenmen, dyvells and fyre works with all thinges thereunto belonging ac- cording to his agreement, the some of .....	282	0	0
Payde to Nicholas Oaks, stationer, for the printyng of 500 booke, the some of .....	4	0	0
Payde to George Newball, Keeper of Blakwell hall, for the use of his house for the children .....	2	0	0
Payde to the porters of Blakwell hall in benevolence, for looking to the pageant & other shewes whilst the children were at dynner .....	0	10	0
Payde for 50 sugar loaves, 36 lb. of nuttmeggs, 24 lb. of dates, and 114 lb. of ginger, which were throwen about the streetes by those which sate on the griffyns and camells.....	5	7	8
Payde for goyng by water at several tymes to see the worke made ready, the some of .....	0	2	6
Payde and given to Mr. Roger Walrond, marshall of this city, in gratuity in respect of his servyce and attendance with his men on the day, the some of .....	4	0	0
Payde to George Bell for himself and 20 others,			
Carried forward ..	£	298	0
			2

	£ s. d.
Brought forward..	298 0 2
for the ushering, marshalling and making way for the whole Company on the day, they furnyshing themselves with all thinges necessary, the some of .....	5 0 0
Payde for taking upp of the spurres at Paule's and for setting them againe and for paving and gravell .....	0 10 0
Payde for hire of a barge when the Company went with Mr. Sheriff Johnson to Westminster to take his oath*.....	1 10 0
Payde to dyvers porters for carrying of things from the hall and from Gresham house to Leaden hall, the some of.....	0 16 0
	<hr/>
	£305 16 2

MERCERY WARES *for Banners and other things.*

Payde for 7 yardes of crimson damaske .....	6 12 0
More for 20 ells of taffata sарcenett, at 8s. per ell.	8 0 0
More for 16 ells of taffeta for scarves .....	1 1 4
Payde to Thomas Abbott, for 59 dozen of crimson & white ribbon of all sortes .....	10 16 11
Payde to Thomas Howkins, Beadle, for candles and for bringyng in of the pageants after the shewe to the hall, as per bill.....	0 12 9
Payde for carrying away the rubbish at Leadenhall and taking downe the partitions there .....	0 11 0
	<hr/>
Carried forward..	£27 14 0

\* The Company hired barges for state occasions until the year 1637. On the 9th October of that year it was thought to be beneath the Company's dignity to appear in a barge which was not their own, and accordingly the Wardens and some of the Assistants were empowered "to contracte and agree with such person as they should think meete, " to erect, edify and build a faire and large barge for the use of this " Company ; and that they should take care for the provision of a house " and place for the safe keeping of the said barge."

	£ s. d.
Brought forward..	27 14 0
Payde to Mr. Towne clark, for the copy of an order, and to certen workmen for setting up the beasts in the pageant-chamber over the entry in the hall .....	0 11 0
Payde to the city carpenter, for pullyng downe dyvers signes and setting them upp againe ....	1 14 6
Payde and given in gratuity to 8 porters which carried the pageants .....	1 10 0
Payde for the carriage of two greate ladders from Puddle wharfe to Grocers' Hall.....	0 2 0
Payde to several watermen for carrying of the whiffelers and divers of the Assistants and Liverye men, to and from Westminster .....	0 13 0
 <i>AUNCYENTS, Banners, Streamers, and Shields.</i>	
Payde to Jacob Challoner, painter, for a greate square banner of the Prince's armes within the sonne beames of gould, the some of .....	7 0 0
More to him for mendyng of the Company's banner	0 5 0
More to him for the newe paynting and guylding of 10 trumpet banners at 4s. a peece .....	2 0 0
More for paynting and guylding 2 smaller banners	0 6 0
More for mendyng of 24 trumpett banners .....	1 4 0
More for paynting and guylding of 2 long pennons of the Lord Maiors arms on callicoe .....	2 13 4
More for paynting and guylding of 8 other pennons on callicoe with the armes of the City, Company, England, and Scotland .....	8 0 0
Payde for 4 peeces of redd and blewe callicoe to make the sayde pennons .....	1 4 6
Payde for the paynting and guylding of three pavyses colloured in oyle at 10s. a peece .....	1 10 0
More for paynting in oyle and guylding of 30 shields .....	3 15 0
Payde for three pavyses of waynscott at 3s. a peece and 12 shields at 15d. a peece .....	1 4 0
 Carried forward..	 £ 61 6 0

	£ s. d.
Brought forward..	61 6 0
Payde for paynting 17 great staves, 12 small staves in oyle, and four hatchments .....	4 14 6
Payde to the sayde Jacob Challoner and 2 others for the ordering, installing, and setting forth of the banners, streamers, and other silk workes and for looking to them and for their paynes all that day.....	0 13 4
Payde to the upholster for making of great square bands .....	0 18 8
Payde for mendyng an auncyent which was broken in the servyce .....	0 3 0
	<hr/> <hr/>
	£ 67 15 10

THE BACHELERS *their Breakfast at the Shipp behind Old Fish Street, together with the Whiffelers and Yard Men.*

Payde to Mr. Abell, vintener, for all manner of charges of the sayde breakfast, the some of .... £27 8 9

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THE CHARGE *of a Supper and certen other Dynners made at the Hall and elsewhere.*

	£ s. d.
Payde for all manner of charges of a supper made in the hall the 27 <sup>th</sup> day of November, both for Mr. Wardens and other comytees, and alsoe for the whole livery of Bachelors over and above his Lordshipps allowance of £20, being 14 messes of meate, the some of.....	39 9 3
Payde for dyvers dynners and potations made and had, both for Mr. Wardens and other comytees, as well in the hall as elsewhere during the tyme of their sytting about the sayde busynesses, the some of .....	25 16 0
	<hr/> <hr/>
	£ 65 5 3

BENEVOLENCES and Rewards to Officers and others which took  
paines about the sayde busynesse, with other particular  
charges as followeth,

	£ s. d.
Payde and given in benevolence to Anthony Monday, gent <sup>a</sup> , for his paynes in drawing a pro- ject for this busynesse which was offered to the Comytee .....	5 0 0
Payde and given to Mr. Deckar for the like.....	4 0 0
	<hr/> £ 9 0 0

Payde to John Thompkins, beadle of the Bache- lers towards his Livery gowne and for his servyce and extraordinary paynes taken in this behalf ..	7 7 0
More for a crimson damaske hood for the sayd beadle.....	1 3 0
Payde to John Bunbury, Clarke of the Company, for his servyce and attendance during all the tyme of this busynesse .....	3 6 8
Payde to Thomas Hawkins the Company's beadle for his servyce and attendance in like manner ..	2 0 0
Payde to William Atkins the Lord Maiors officer, for paynes by him taken about such brothers of this Company as were disobedient and refused to pay as they were assessed .....	4 0 0
Payde to the clarke's man in benevolence for his servyce and paynes in managing of the poore men and otherwyse .....	2 10 0
Payde to John Bunburie for the ordering and wryting of this accompt.....	2 0 0
Payde the saunder beaters for their paynes, and for wax .....	1 3 4
Payde to the clerke's mayde and beadle's daugh- ter in benevolence and for their paines 10s. a peece .....	1 0 0
Carried forward..	£ 24 10 0

	£ s. d.
Brought forward..	24 10 0
Payde and given in benevolence to certen officers of the Lord Maiors house, in regard his Lordshipp tooke noe money of the Bachelers, the some of..	2 0 0
Payde the like to Mr. Sheriff Johnson his officers..	0 10 0
Payde alsoe and allowed for sommes lost by light and cracked gold, the some of .....	0 15 6
	<hr/> <hr/>
	£ 27 15 6

THE REPORTE of the Audytors made and allowed the 5th  
day of May 1618.

	£ s. d.
Somme of all the whole receipts before pticularly mentioned and expressed in the charge of this accompte .....	884 12 10
Somme of all the payments before pticularly men- tioned and expressed in the discharge of this ac- compte .....	882 18 11
Soe resteth clier for the neate foote of this accompt in ready money remayning nowe in the hands of the Wardens of the Bachelers, as appeareth, the some of .....	<hr/> <hr/> 1 13 11

JACOB PENNYNGTON,  
HENRY HANDSARD,  
JOHN CLATON,  
GEORGE SMYTH, }  
                          } *Audytors.*

## No. 11.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE ESTATE BELONGING TO  
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GROCERS, IN  
THE COUNTY OF DERRY, IN IRELAND.

The causes which led to the establishment of a Colony of Londoners in the North of Ireland being but little known, it may not be considered irrelevant to give a brief account of them by way of introduction to the history of the Grocers' estate in the sister country.

In the early part of the seventeenth century, at the close of the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, several distinguished Roman Catholics of the province of Ulster in the north of Ireland, and, at their head, *O'Neill, Earl of Tir-Owen*, broke out into a revolt against the Crown of England. After considerable resistance on their part, they were overcome and, finally, attainted of high treason, and their princely possessions, consisting of six counties,\* were, in the reign of *James I.* vested in the crown by act of parliament as forfeited property.

This part of Ireland having been always notorious for the shelter it afforded to disaffected persons, the King, on his accession to the throne, resolved, in order to support his power, to avail himself of the reformed religion as a means of establishing a settlement on the escheated lands, to be composed of such English and Scottish Protestants as could be induced to settle amongst a people so turbulent and restless as the natives of this part of the country then were; and, with a view to the formation of such a colony, he applied to the City of London, offering to grant the citizens a large portion of the forfeited estates by way of inducement to them to entertain the project. The citizens accordingly undertook the plantation, and *King James*, on the 29th of March 1613, granted them a charter for carrying the same into effect; and, although they encountered great difficulties on account of the enormous expense which attended the measure and the opposition they met with, they finally succeeded in accomplishing the intended object.

Origin of  
the Plan-  
tation in  
Ulster.

\* Armagh, Tyrone, Coleraine, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan.

By this charter *the Irish Society* were incorporated; and they acted under it until the reign of *Charles I.*, when it was revoked and declared void by a sentence in the Court of Star Chamber; but, on the 16th of April 1662, *Charles II.* granted a fresh charter, confirming the previous one of *James I.* and restoring the Society to their rights; under this, the Society continue to act as a Corporation.\*

The first proceedings of the Grocers' Company relative to the estates in Ireland, are detailed at length in the books and are conceived in the following terms:—

1609.     “ 4 July.—This day, at an assembly of the Ward<sup>ns</sup> & Ct<sup>t</sup> of Assistants, a precept was read dated the 1<sup>st</sup> inst<sup>t</sup>. directed to them by the Lord Mayo<sup>r</sup>, with a copy of certain MOTIVES AND REASONS to induce the Citizens of this City TO UNDERTAKE A PLANTATION in the NORTH PARTS OF IRELAND, and a printed book, containing a collection of such Orders and Conditions as are to be observed by the Undertakers, upon the distribution and plantation of the escheated lands in Ulster, lately received by his Lordsh<sup>p</sup> from the Lords of H. Maj<sup>tie</sup>s Most Hon. Privy Council and to the said precept annexed, the tenor of which precept and motives do hereafter ensue, *vizt.*

#### “ BY THE MAIOR.

Precept  
from the  
Lord  
Mayor.

*To the Master and Ward<sup>ns</sup> of the Companie of Grocers.*  
Whereas I have latelie received from the Lords of His Ma<sup>tie</sup>s Most Hob<sup>le</sup> Privie Counsell, a project for a Plantation in Ireland, the coppie whereof, togeather w<sup>th</sup> a printed booke you shall receive herevnto annexed, w<sup>th</sup> intimation of His Ma<sup>tie</sup>s most gracious favor & love to the Cittie of London to graunt vnto us the first offer of soe worthie an accion, w<sup>ch</sup> is likelie to proove pleasinge to Almighty God, ho<sup>ble</sup> to the Cittie & profitable to the vnder-takers; *Theis* are therefore to will and require you p<sup>s</sup>entlie to assemble togeather a competent nomber of the gravest & most substanciall men of yo<sup>r</sup> Companie, to consider advisedlie of the sayd Projecte, & of them to nominate fowre men of most judgement & experience to joyne w<sup>th</sup> like nomber of fowre men of eu<sup>r</sup>ie other of the Companies of this Cittie amongst themselves,

\* A Concise View of the Origin, &c. of the Irish Society, 1822.

to consider of & sett downe in writinge such reasons, orders, demandes, and other circumstancies as are fitt to be remembered, required, or reformed in the undertakinge of soe worthie & soe ho<sup>b</sup>le an accion, & certefie me in wrytinge, before the fiveth daye of this instant Julie, the names of such fowre of yo<sup>r</sup> Companie as you shall soe nominate & appoyn特 wherein you are not to fayle in any wyse. From Guildhall, this first daye of Julie 1609.

SEBRIGHT."

*Motives and Reasons to induce the Cittie of London to undertake Plantation in the Northe of Ireland.*

The late ruined Cittie of the Derrie, scittuated vpon the river of Loughfoyle, navigable w<sup>th</sup> good vessels above the Derrie, & one other place at or neare the castle of Colraine, scittuate vpon the river of the Ban, navigable w<sup>th</sup> small vessells onlie, by reason of the Barre a litle above Colraine, doe seeme to be fittest places for the Cittie of London to plant.

25 Maij  
1609.

Theire scittuacon is such as, w<sup>th</sup> small chardges and industrie, the foresayde places (especiallie the Derrie) may be made by land almost impregnable, & soe will more safelie afforde safetie & securitie to those that shalbe sent thither to inhabite.

To theise townes his Ma<sup>tie</sup> may be pleased to graunt not onlie Corporacons w<sup>th</sup> such liberties & priviledges for theire good goverment, &c. as shalbe convenient, but alsoe the whole territorie or county betwext them, w<sup>ch</sup> is above xx<sup>tie</sup> myles in lengthe, included w<sup>th</sup> the sea on the northe, the river of Ban on the east, and the river of Derrye or Loughfoyle on the west; out of w<sup>ch</sup> one thousand acres or more may be allotted to eche of the townes for theire coīons rent free, the rest to be planted w<sup>th</sup> such vnder-takers as the Cittie of London shall thinke good for theire best profit, payeinge onlie for the same the easy rent of the vnder-takers.

His Ma<sup>tie</sup> may be likewise pleased to graunte to theis townes the benifit of all the customes of all goods to be imported thither or exported thence, as well pondage as tunnage, as the greate & small customes for xx<sup>tic</sup>i yeares payeinge yearlie vis. viid. Irishe, as an acknowledgement.

Further, that his Ma<sup>ty</sup> wolde be pleased to buye from the possessors the Salmon Fishings of the rivers of Ban & Lough-

foyle, and, out of his princelie bowntie, bestowe the same vppon theis townes for theire better encouragement, w<sup>ch</sup> some yeares prooveth verie plentiful & profitabile.

As likewise to graunte them licence to transporte all prohibited wares growinge vppon theire owne lands.

And, lastlie, the admiraltie in the coasts of Terconnell and Colraine, now (as is supposed) in the Lorde Deputie by the Lord Admiral's graunte maye be by his Matie's meanes transferred vnto them for the like term of xxj yeares.

*The Land Commodities w<sup>ch</sup> the Northe of Ireland affordeth.*

The countrie is well watered genfalle by abundance of good springs, brooks, and rivers, and plentie of fewel, either by meanes of wood, or, where that is wantinge, of good & wholesome turfe.

It yeildeth store of all thinges necessarie for manne's sustenance in such measure as maye not onlie maineteyne yt selfe, but alsoe furnishe the Cittie of London yearelie w<sup>th</sup> manyfolde provision, especiallie for theire fleetes, as, namelie, w<sup>th</sup> beeves, porke, fishe, rye, beare, pease, & beanies, w<sup>ch</sup> will also in some yeares helpe the dearthe of the Cittie & countrie about, & the storehowses appoynted for releife of the poore.

As it is fitt for all sortes of husbandrie, soe for breedinge wares, & increase cattell it doth excell, where may be expexted plentie of butter & cheese, hides & tallowe.

English sheepe will breede abundantlie in Ireland, the sea-coast & the nature of the soyle beinge verie whollsome for them; and, if neede were, wool might be had cheaplie & plentifullie out of the west pts of Scotland.

Itt is held to be good in many places for madder, hoppes, and wood.

Itt affowrdeth fells of all sortes in greate quantitie, redd deare, foxes, sheepe, lambe, conye, martin, squirrel, &c.

Hempe & flax doe more naturallie growe theare than elsewheare, w<sup>ch</sup> being verie well regarded might give greate provision for canvasse, cables, cordage, and such like requisites for shippinge, besides the redd lynnen cloth, & all stuffs made of lynnen yarne, w<sup>ch</sup> is both fyner & more plentiful there than in all the rest of the kingdom.

Materialls for buildinge—tymber, stone, lyme-stone, slate, and

shingle is affowrded in moste pts of the countrie, and the soyle is good for briche and tyle.

All materialls for buyldinge shippes (excepted tarre) is here to be had in greate plentie; &, in countries nere adioyninge, the goodliest & largest tymber in the woods of Clancunkene & Killetroughe that maye be, & maye compare w<sup>th</sup> any in his Matie's domynions, w<sup>th</sup> maye be easilie brought to the sea by the Lough Eagh & the river of the Ban.

The firre masts of all sorts maye be had out of Lochabar in Scotland, not farre distant from the northe of Ireland, much more easilie then from Norweye.

Other sorts of wood doth affowrde other manner of services — of pipe-stafes, hoggesheade-stafes, hoopen-stafes, clapboarde-stafes, waynescott, soape & dyeinge ashes, glasse, & iron workes for iron & copper oare are there plentyfullie founde.

The countrie is verie fitt for honnye & waxe.

#### *Sea and River Commodities.*

First, The harber of the Derrie is exceeding good, & the roade at Portrushe & Loughville (not farre distant from the Derrie) tollerable.

The sea-fishinges of that coaste are verie plentifull of all manner of vsuall sea-fishes, especiallie herrings & eyles, there beinge yearelie after Michaelmas, for takinge of herrings, above seaven or eight score of sayle of his Matie's subjects & straingers for loadinge, besides an infinitt nomber of botes for fishinge & killinge.

Greate & profitable fishinges are in the next adjacent Isles of Scotland, where many Hollanders doe sitt all the somer season ; and doe plentifullie vent theire fishes into Spayne and the Strayghts.

Much trane or fish oyle of seale, herrings, &c. maye be had vpon that coast.

As the sea yieldeth verie greate plentie & varietie of sea fishe, soe doth the coaste affowrd aboundinge of all kinde of sea fowle, and the rivers greater store of freshe fishes then any of the rivers of England.

Theare be alsoe some store of good pearles vpon this coaste, especiallie w<sup>th</sup>in the river of Loughfoyle.

Theis coastes be reddie for traffique w<sup>th</sup> England & Scotland.

and for supplie of provision from or to them; and doth lye open & convenyent for Spayne & the Streights, & fittest & nearest for Newfoundelande.

*The profit that London shall receive by this Plantacon.*

If multitudes of men were ymployed proportionable to theis comodities wh<sup>ch</sup> might be there by theire industrie atteyned many thowsands wolde be sett on worke to the greate service of the Kinge, strength of his realmes, advancement of sev<sup>r</sup>all trades, & benifitte of the p<sup>t</sup>icular ps<sup>ons</sup> whome the infinit increasing greatenes (that often doth minister occasion of ruyne to ytselfe) of this Cittie might not onlie convenientlye spare, but alsoe reape a singuler comoditie hereby, by easinge of an insupportable burthen w<sup>ch</sup> so surchargeth all the p<sup>ts</sup> of the Cittie, that one tradesman can scarce live by another, w<sup>ch</sup> in all probabilitie wolde be a meanes alsoe to free & p<sup>r</sup>sere the Cittie from infeccion, & by consequence the wholle kingdome, w<sup>ch</sup> of necessitie must have recourse thither, which ps<sup>ons</sup> pestered or closed vpp togeather can neither otherwise or verie hardlie avoyde.

*Adhuc the profit that London shall receive by the sayde Plantacon.*

Theis colonies maye be a meanes to vtter infinit comodities from London to furnishe the wholl northe of Ireland & Isles of Scotland, w<sup>ch</sup> maye be transported by meanes of the river of Ban & Loughfoyle, into the Counties of Colran, Dunnegall, Tyronne, Armagh, & Antrym.

The Cittie of Dublyn being desolate by the slaughter of the Easterlinges, who were the auncient Inhabitants thereof, was given by King Henry the Second vnto the Cittie of Bristoll to be inhabited, w<sup>ch</sup> without any chardge to the Kinge, Bristoll did vndertake & p<sup>r</sup>formed, whose posteritie doth there continue vnto this daye. This planta<sup>cōn</sup> thus p<sup>r</sup>formed to the p<sup>r</sup>petuall prayse of Bristoll was not the least cawse of civilizinge & securinge that p<sup>te</sup> of the countrie.

It were to be wished this noble precedent were followed by the Cittie of London in theis times, w<sup>th</sup> soe much the more alacritie, as in abilitie & meanes they doe excell them, & soe much the rather that the comodities w<sup>ch</sup> the Cittie of London shall reape

hereby doth farre surpass the profitt that woulde redownde to Bristoll by th' other.

And therewpon the sayde Mr. Wardens, togeather w<sup>th</sup> the sayde Assistents here assembled, advisedlie consideringe, as well of the sayde p<sup>r</sup>cepte & motives or proiecte, as of the sayde printed Booke, have accordinge to the sayde p<sup>r</sup>cepte nominated Mr. Anthony Loda, Mr. Will<sup>m</sup>. Pennyfather, Mr. Will<sup>m</sup>. Millett, & Mr. Robert Johnson of this Companie, beinge thoughte to be men of judgement & experience, fitt to joyne w<sup>th</sup> the like nomber off fowre men of ev<sup>r</sup>rie of the other Companies of this Cittie, amongst themselves to consider of & sett downe in wrytinge such reasons, orders, demandes & other circumstaunces as are fitt to be remembred, required, or performed in the vnder-taking of soe worthie & hoble an accon.

And therewpon Certificate was made & given to the Right Hoble. the Lord Maior, in answeare of the foresayde precepte, as followeth.

The form of Mr. Warden's  
Certificate to the Right Hoble.  
the Lord Maior,  
in answeare of the fore-} To the Right Hoble. Sr. Humfrey Welde,  
Knight, Lord Maior of the Cittie of  
London.\*  
sayde precepte. } The Certificate of vs, Robert Cocks,  
Edmond Peshall, & Tymothie Batherst, Wardens of the Compa-  
nie of Grocers, w<sup>th</sup>in the sayde Cittie.

Accordinge to the tenor of yo<sup>r</sup> Lordshipp's p<sup>r</sup>cepte to vs directed, bearinge date the firste of this instant Julie, wee, togeather w<sup>th</sup>. certen of the Assistants of owr. sayde Companie, havinge assembled o'relves, & uppon advise & delib<sup>r</sup>ate consideracon had, as well of the sayde p<sup>r</sup>cepte, & of the coppie of the motives & reasons to induce ye Cittizens of this Cittie to vndertake a Plantacon in the northe p<sup>t</sup>e of Ireland, as alsoe of a prynted Booke conteyninge a collecc<sup>n</sup>on of such orders & condicions as are to be observed by the sayde undertakers vpon the distri-bucion of the escheated lands in Ulster, latelie received by yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>pp</sup> from the Lords of his Ma<sup>ts</sup>. most Hoble. Privie Counsell, & to the sayde p<sup>r</sup>cepte annexed, beinge read unto vs, we have nominated Mr. Anthony Loda, Mr. Will<sup>m</sup>. Pennyfather, Mr.

\* It is rather curious, that the Lord Mayor at this particular period, was himself a Grocer.

Will<sup>m</sup>. Millett, & Mr. Robert Johnson, brothers of this Compagnie, beinge by us thought to be men of judgem<sup>t</sup> & experience, fytt to joyne w<sup>th</sup> the like nomber of fowre men of everie of the Companies of this Cittie, amongst themselves to consider & sett downe in wrytinge, such reasons, orders, & demandes, w<sup>th</sup> other circumstaunces as are fytt to be remembered, required, or p<sup>r</sup>formed in the vndertakinge of soe worthie & hoble an accōn: Humblie referringe the further consideracon thereof to yo<sup>r</sup> good Lordshipp.

JOHN GROVE.

26 July, } Lord Mayo<sup>r</sup>'s precept as to the Plantat<sup>n</sup> of Ireland,  
1609. } was read this day to a Cowrt or Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly of  
the Company, as follows:

To M <sup>r</sup> and Wardens of the }	By the Maior.
Company of Grocers. }	

Whereas two several precepts have been heretofore directed to you and other Companies, concerning a Plantation in Ireland, with an intent and purpose that “ the Committee by you named “ should have conferred with his Matie's Counsel of the realme of “ Ireland concerning the same: But, by reason of some mis- “ taking, the Committees of yo<sup>r</sup> sev'all Companies made awn- “ swere in writinge, before anye conferrence had w<sup>th</sup>. his Matie's “ s<sup>d</sup> Counsell of Ireland, which was ill accepted by the Lords of “ his Matie's most ho. Privy Counsell, as hath been publicklye “ delivered at a full assemblye: Whereupon, I and my brethren “ th' Aldermen, with the advice of divers of the chief commoners, “ entreated Mr. Recorder to enforme the Lordes, that the “ answeare formerly made, proceeding out of mistaking, and not “ entent of any undutiful entent or purpose; and, therefore, “ there was nominated for conferrence w<sup>th</sup> the Counsell of Ire- “ land, towching the matter projected,—Sir Thomas Bennett, Sir “ Thomas Lowe, Sir Leonard Hallydaye, Sir Henrye Rowe, Sir “ James Pomberton, Mr. Bond, Mr. Leate, Mr. Wheler, Mr. “ Meggs, Mr. Greene, Mr. Sade, Mr. Rob<sup>t</sup> Middleton, Mr. “ Fox, Mr. Speringe, Mr. Claxton, Mr. Creyford, commoners, “ to treate and conferre concerninge the sayd Plantacōn, and to “ make report to me and my brethren th' Aldermen, what should “ passe in that conferrence, that such furtherance may be given “ to the accion in hand as the honor of such an offer deserveth.

" Now forasmuch as the said Commyties, after a full and large conference had with the Counsell of Ireland, have receaved such satisfaction, as well for the honour of the accion, the good that may come to this kingdom and Cittie by the same, as the profitt that is likelie to redownd to the particular adventurers as have given good encouragem<sup>t</sup> to the Committees and others to become adventurers therein; and libertie is also given for further satisfaction, that all things shall be answerable to that which is reported, that certen men be chosen and sent by us, to viewe the place, and make returne unto us; soe that yf it prove not conformable to that w<sup>ch</sup> be reported and proffittable for the vndertakers, wee may be at libertie to leave this vndertaking; anye thing now done notwithstanding. These are, therefore, in his Ma<sup>tie</sup>s name, to will and require you, upon Wednesday morn<sup>g</sup> next, to assemble in yo<sup>r</sup> Comon Hall all the Aldermen of yo<sup>r</sup> Company, & the fowre Committees by you formerly named, and all other, the Assistants, Livery, and men of note of yo<sup>r</sup> yeomanrye, by especiall summons then and there to understand and be enformed of the whole proceedings, &c." He further orders a book to be made of all their names, and what each would willingly contribute, in order that his Maj<sup>y</sup> might be informed of the readiness of the City, and to the end that any of the Comp<sup>y</sup> then absent with<sup>t</sup> proper excuse, might be fined for his contempt, and afterwards dealt with accordingly.

Deliberation having been had, a list follows of subscribers, beginning with Humphrey Weld Lord May<sup>r</sup> £50, and a Certificate of the result, directed to his Lordship. The whole sum subscribed by the City was £20,000, of which the Grocer's Company paid, by instalments, their proportion of £1748.

The definitive allotment of the lands did not take place until the year 1617, as is manifest from the following particulars inserted in the Company's books.\*

1617.  
Allotment  
of the  
lands.

\* " At a Court of Common Council convened soon afterwards, Mr. Alderman Cockayne, the Governor of the Irish Society, represented to the Court, and to the Masters and Wardens of all the several Companies then assembled, that a division of the estates, which was proposed to be made in Ireland, belonging to the Plantation, had been made into twelve parts, which were particularly expressed on twelve several sheets of paper, the same being numbered from one to twelve

“ A view of the proportion of the country lands allotted unto  
 “ the right worshipfull the Company of Grocers of London, made  
 “ the 12th of February 1617.

“ *Upon the Moyes, alias the Muffe,* are situate,

“ One stone house of one story, and half slated, containing  
 “ from out to out, or within the walls, 36 feet in length, 20 feet  
 “ in breadth, having a flanker or outlet of stone of 12 feet  
 “ square; the walls are 14 feet high. The shafts of the  
 “ chimneys, the door-cases, windows and coigns, both within  
 “ and without the house, are made of free stone. This house  
 “ contained a kitchen, hall, buttery, and three lodging-cham-  
 “ bers, and hath four chimneys.

“ One other house of the same materials and contents.

“ Two other houses conjoined, of the same materials and  
 “ contents severally.

“ The walls of two other houses conjoined, of the same  
 “ materials, brought up to the heighth of 10 feet, having timber,  
 “ lath, slate and lime in place for the finishing thereof.

“ One house of one story, and half the roof slated, con-  
 “ taining within the walls 32 feet in length, 18 feet in breadth,  
 “ and 14 feet high, and hath 4 rooms & 3 chimneys.”

“ *Upon the Cregan.*

“ One stone house of one story, and half the roof in slating,  
 “ containing without the walls 38 feet in length, 18 feet in  
 “ breadth; the walls are 14 feet high, whereunto is added, on  
 “ the one side thereof, 2 rooms for a buttery and a milk-house  
 “ of stone in form of fish-head. This house hath otherwise  
 “ 4 rooms with chimneys.”

“ *Upon Gortney.*

“ One stone house of one story and a garret slated, containing  
 “ within the walls 30 feet in length, 20 feet in breadth; the  
 “ inclusive; and that, answerable to those proportions, the Committee  
 “ for the Plantation had prepared twelve pieces of paper, each piece  
 “ having one of the aforesaid numbers thereon, which were rolled and  
 “ tied up severally, like lots, each lot referring to some one of the same  
 “ twelve proportions of land; which twelve lots were brought into the  
 “ Court, by the Governor, in a box by themselves.”

" walls are 10 feet high. It hath 2 rooms, 2 garrets and  
" chimneys."

" All these houses stand within view of each other."

*" Upon Belud.*

" One stone house, not yet covered, of 2 stories and a garret,  
" containing within the walls, in length 42 feet, in breadth  
" 21 feet, whereunto is added a porch and stair-case of stone.  
" The walls are 7 feet high. A hall, kitchen, pantry and a  
" parlour upon one floor, and, under the parlour, a cellar; over  
" which rooms are intended to be made 10 other chambers,  
" garrets and closets; the roof, slate and lime are ready for  
" the covering thereof, and it has 4 chimneys."

*" Upon the Mornceys.*

" One stone house of one story and half slated, containing  
" within the walls, in length 30½ feet, and in breadth 15½ feet;  
" it hath 14 rooms and 2 chimneys. These two buildings last-  
" mentioned are within a quarter of a mile of each other."

*" Upon Midown.*

" One mill, with a house of stone and timber, are building.  
" The stone and timber in the place."

*" Upon Edenreaghmore.*

" One stone house is to be builded before Bartholomewtide  
" next, by one Andrew Rinningham, Gent<sup>n</sup>, according to the  
" covenants in that behalf made."

N.B. The tenants of all the houses are named.

To the preceding list is added a notice from the Governor and Committee of Irish Lands, requiring the speedy finishing and furnishing of a church by this Company upon their proportion of land, for the honour of God. It also enjoins the providing of sufficient arms and powder for defence of the country.

On the 23d July 1619, is inserted a long letter from a *Mr. Goodwyn* of Londonderry, informing the Court that he had made Livery of Seisin of their manor to their proper use and behoof, in presence of a competent number of witness; namely, to *Mr. Freeman*, tenant of the Goldsmiths, for their proportion, which next adjoined this Company's land, and *James Vaughan*, Gentleman, a tenant of the Fishmongers' proportion. As touching

1619.  
*Mr. Goodwyn's Letter.*

their Barony and Castle, he adds, “ such are the difficulties accompanying this plantation, that take we never so sure and orderly course in our best judgments for the execution of our affairs, yet many times the success does not answer our care and travel; for so it is, that a proclamation being published the last year, commanding the Irish to depart upon certain pain before the first of this month, and afterwards to be at His Majesty’s pleasure, that the most of them are fled from off the land, to our great loss in rent and hindrance in buildings, wherein they served us as labourers, and to bring materials in place; our workmen, also, are but few, of little skill, and less honesty; to whom, if we make any payment beforehand, they leave our work behind, and many times are, by unneighbourly practices, enticed from us.” He states, in continuation, that their timber-work is framed at Coleraine, and from thence brought through some part of the sea into the river of Lough-foyle to their proportion; in which passage part of the Goldsmiths’ frames, as well as theirs, had miscarried: yet they had, notwithstanding, finished the Barony and brought up the Castle to the second floor, and were in hopes to finish the whole before St. James’s tide.

Concerning the church, he states that he had viewed and measured the ruins of the one they proposed to have repaired, which stood within half a mile of their town, and found it to be thirty-six feet in length, and eighteen feet in width; and, on conferring with the inhabitants around, they seemed to be averse to its being restored as a church, as it was not large enough for the parishioners, and was too far from the town, subjecting, on that account, all who would repair to it to surprisal. They further objected that the site had only been “ a burial-place for children dying without baptism, and for such as had misdone themselves.” That the parish church of Faughan Vale, wherein the town lies, with most part of the Company’s proportion, extended seven miles, or from the river of Faughan unto the common wood, along by the river of Lough-foyle, in the midway whereof their town was situate, on the highway leading from the city of Londonderry to Coleraine, which rendered their town a more indifferent situation for the parish church of Faughan Vale than the ruins mentioned; and the parishioners offering, therefore, themselves rather to contribute towards building a church in the town

for its ornament, good, and conveniency, than have one in the place proposed. He concludes by advising the building of a new church in the town, sixty feet in length and twenty feet in breadth, the charge whereof to the Company would only be one year's rent. He adds that the Fishmongers, their next neighbours, had built a church in their town: in addition to which the inhabitants had also repaired part of a monastery and left their parish church. The Drapers likewise had built a chapel of ease to their castle.

This letter having been read, and its contents discussed, the Company voted the sum of £150 towards building a new church, as recommended by *Mr. Goodwyn*.

In the year 1622 the Governor and Committee of the plantation in Ireland, sent a number of queries to the Wardens of the Grocers' Company; I insert the replies because they clearly shew the particulars of the Company's possessions at that period.

1622.  
Queries  
from the  
Irish So-  
ciety.

1. " We have, upon our proportion of land in Ireland, builded  
 " a faire, stout, and substantial Castle, with a faire tower upon  
 " it of 12 feet high above the ground, well coped, and strongly  
 " builded like the wall of a town of war, with loop-holes and  
 " spaces on the top of the wall for ordinance or other pieces of  
 " defence. Also there are 34 substantial and tenantable houses,  
 " fully built and finished, upon our said portion, inhabited by  
 " British tenants.

2. " Our freeholders' names are *Devereux Chichley Gent.*,  
*John Chichley Gent.*, *John Wray Gent.*, *Robert Goodwyn Gent.*, *John Lewis Gent.*, & *Elias Smyth Gent.*, all or most  
 " of them, as we are informed, residing upon our said portion.  
 " The names of British tenants are *Rich<sup>d</sup>. Griskin*, *Thos<sup>s</sup>. Da-vis*, *W<sup>m</sup>. Taylor*, *Andrew Gingham*, *Walter Alipine*, *Jeremy Rose*, *John Wyer Sen<sup>r</sup>.*, *John Wyer Jr.*, *Fran<sup>s</sup>. Burrell*,  
*John Todd*, *John Taylor*, *John Jeleson*, *John Clerk*, *Edward Widstone*, *John Appellis*, *John Wright*, *Edward ap Edward*,  
*Robert Haverley*, *Rich<sup>d</sup>. Cooke*, *Mr. Lewis*, *Mr. Woodroffe*,  
*Mr. Roney*, *John Todd*, *John Fowler*, besides others, of  
 " which we have not yet received informations of their names.

3. " We have in readiness, upon our said portion, 24 corsletts,  
 " 31 muskets and calivers, all completely furnished for defence  
 " of the country.

4. " We have erected and builded upon our portion A FAIRE

“ CHURCH. The Dean of Derry claimeth to be rector thereof,  
 “ as we are informed ; and that tenant hath disbursed much money  
 “ upon enclosing, ditching, and quick-setting our good pro-  
 “ portion.

5. “ We have let our proportion unto Thomas Harrington  
 “ Gent<sup>n</sup>. for the term of 54 years, yet to come, for the yearly  
 “ rent of £116 : 13 : 4, who hath covenanted with our Company  
 “ not to let or set any of our said proportion to any tenant, but  
 “ unto such as were born within the realms of England or Scot-  
 “ land and shall take the oath of Allegiance to his Majesty afore  
 “ their plantation there ; and concerning the natives residing  
 “ upon our said portion, we will endeavour for their expulsion  
 “ and supplantation by degrees as soon as may be. We have  
 “ expended and disbursed in buildings, upon our said portion of  
 “ land £2000, or near thereabouts, over and besides £5000 paid  
 “ by our Company to the Chamber of London for our said  
 “ plantation.

6. “ We have received for rents since the first allotment for  
 “ our said plantation, £850.

7. “ We have also received of Cap<sup>n</sup>. Marcus Ochan, who is  
 “ estated a freeholder of 2000 acres of land by the Governor and  
 “ Committees of the said plantation, and holdeth of our manor  
 “ there, the yearly rent of £21 : 6 : 8, the which we yearly pay  
 “ to the said Governor and Committees, according to our cove-  
 “ nants in our assurance from the said Governor and Committee.”

*A particular of such Churches, Castles, Mills, Barnes, Houses of English building, British families, number of British men and arms, that are upon the portion of lands belonging to the Right Worshipfull Company of Grocers of London, January the 28th, Anno Domini 1622.*

“ ONE FAIR CHURCH new built of stone and covered with  
 “ slate, with pulpit, reading seat and communion table, and  
 “ many seats built therein by the parishioners.

“ One sufficient grist mill.

“ ONE FAIRE AND STRONG CASTLE, with a large and strong  
 “ bar about it, with 4 flankers at each corner, every flanker  
 “ being two stories and a half high, with a roof thereon and  
 “ slated at the top.

“ Sixteen fair and strong stone houses, the most of them

“ having the door cases, windows, and chimneys, all of free  
“ stone, and all of them slated.

“ One other house ; the walls and gable ends of stone, and  
“ thatch on the roof.

“ Five timber-houses well built after the English form, besides  
“ divers of the houses built with coplers, and inhabited by the  
“ English.

“ Forty-four house keepers with their wives and families of  
“ British men, in all, between the ages of 60 and 16, eighty  
“ and two persons.

“ Twenty-five corslets compleat, nineteen long pikes, five hal-  
“ berds, four brown bills, 33 full muskets, eight long pieces,  
“ 18 calivers with belts, head pieces, flasks, and touch boxes ;  
“ 100 swords, two horsemen’s pieces, and 160 pounds of powder  
“ with a competency of bullets and 100 weight of lead, ready  
“ upon any occasion.”

In the year 1625, his Majesty *Charles I.* ascended the throne, *Lord Wentworth* was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and *Dr. Bramhall*, who was afterwards elevated to the see of Derry, accompanied him as chaplain.

1625.  
Charles I.

In the beginning of his Majesty’s reign, *Sir Thomas Phillips*,\* who appears to have entertained hostile feelings against the Citizens of London, as undertakers of the plantation, transmitted to the King a violent accusation against them, charging them with a breach of the original articles and conditions, and urging his Majesty to revoke the charter and seize into his own hands the territories in Ulster : in addition to this circumstance, various informations were sent from Ireland, at the instigation of *Dr. Bramhall*, against the citizens, accusing them of crimes and misdemeanors, in consequence of which a writ of sequestration was issued, and the County of Londonderry seized into the King’s hands.

In 1631, the matter was submitted to the High Court of Star Chamber, who appointed Commissioners to examine into the particulars, and the result was a sentence against the Londoners. In 1632 the whole County of Londonderry was formally sequestered and the rents levied for the King’s use, *Bishop Bramhall*

1631.  
Sentence of  
the Star  
Chamber.

\* Sir Thomas Phillips was Governor of Coleraine in 1611. He made a survey of the plantation in 1622, which is preserved in Lambeth Palace.

being appointed chief receiver; and in 1634, the Court of Star Chamber decided that the letters patent of *James I.* should be brought into court to be cancelled. Commissioners were appointed for managing the estates and for entering into contracts for leases with the tenants on the plantation, and, accordingly, the said Commissioners made grants and demises of the manors, lands, and possessions belonging, as well to the twelve chief Company's as to the Irish Society.\*

**1641.** By the books at the Heralds' College it appears that on the return from Scotland of *Charles I.* in 1641, he was invited to dinner by the Corporation of London, on which occasion he publicly declared that he was much troubled at the judgement that had been given for taking away his father's grant of the Irish estates, and he promised the City they should be restored. He accordingly ordered that the Irish Society and Companies should recover their possessions; but the rebellion afterwards breaking out, his Majesty's intentions were not fulfilled.

**1642.** During the rebellion in Ireland in 1642, the City of London sent four ships to Londonderry, with all kinds of provision, clothing, and accoutrements; the Grocers' Company having, in the month of March, received a letter from the Lord Mayor "desiring this Company's care and provision for the furnishing of Londonderry in Ireland with some pieces of artillery, being in great danger by reason of the rebellion;" it was resolved, that the Wardens should inquire what the other Companies proposed doing, "and that they should have the power to do the like." The twelve chief companies contributed each, two pieces of ordnance.

**Revocation of the sentence of the Star Chamber, by Parliament.** In August the same year, the Mayor and Citizens of London, on behalf of themselves and of the Companies, presented their petition to parliament, and, upon mature consideration had and taken of the judgment and sentence against the City, it was voted in parliament that the sentence in the Star Chamber was unlaw-

\* The various grants and agreements were engrossed on vellum and regularly signed. They were preserved among the records of the Irish Society till the fire which happened in the Irish Chamber in 1784, when these important documents were damaged; the fragments, however, which remain are valuable and interesting as they establish the titles of the twelve chief companies to their manorial town lands which are described by name.

ful and unjust, that the Citizens of London, and all those against whom the judgement was so given, in the *scire facias*, should be discharged of that judgement; and that both the Citizens of London, and those of the new plantation, and all under-tenants and all those put out of possession, should be restored to the same estate which they were in before the said sentence in the Star Chamber.

In 1655, during the protectorate of *Oliver Cromwell*, a *Mr. Saunders*, who was the representative of the Grocers' Company in the Irish Committee, communicated to the Court of Assistants the recommendation of the said Committee, "that agents should be sent over to make formal claim to the lands at Londonderry, in Ireland, in behalf of the Companies, which was well approved of by the Court, and it was ordered and appointed that the writings concerning the Company's proportion, be perused and notice taken how the same was leased out, and the time yet to come therein, and when the last rent was paid, and whether any rent be due to the Company, and inquiry made how long the tenant enjoyed the same or received the rent thereof after the sentence in the Star Chamber? That if the Company's tenants shall claim his interest therein, upon the recovery of the same, the dues to the Company may be called in question."

1655.  
Oliver  
Cromwell.

In the month of May in the same year, it was signified to the Court that "whereas it has pleased His Highness the Lord Protector and his Council to restore the Companies unto their former estates in Londonderry, and their lands and other their rights there, and that new letters patent are to be issued forth for the consideration of the same, and Commissioners sent over for settling these affairs," it was requested that the Company would contribute £50 towards defraying the charges to be incurred in carrying the resolution of the Council into effect; which was immediately done. Letters patent were accordingly granted, in which the Protector restored the Irish Society as originally ordained, and conferred on them the same rights as they enjoyed under the charter of *James I.* In August 1658, the Society in virtue of the above letters patent, made new conveyances to the twelve chief Companies of their respective proportions of land in Ulster.

No rent having been paid for the estate to the Company for many years, and “one *Mr. Harrington*, who pretends to an interest in the lease thereof from this Company, having gone over to collect rents and arrears,” the Court appointed as their agent *Lieutenant-Colonel Tristram Beresford*, who being furnished with a power of attorney, was sent to Ireland to look after their interests. The following letter received from him in November 1658, will afford some idea of the state of the Company’s affairs in Ireland at that period.

“ *To the Worshipfull the Master and Wardens of the Grocers’ Company:*

“ Right Worshipfull,

“ According to the power and authoritie by you given unto me, I came upon the lands in the County of Londonderry, and there called the tenants together and read to them the letter of attorney unto me given. I found in them a general opposition against me, and not only by the tenants but by the agent left by *Mr. Harrington*, who had particular orders not to pay me one penny, soe that I was forced to go roundly to worke with them, and begin with *Mr. Harrington’s* agent, one *Mr. Paul Brasher*, taking his distresse, making him and the rest a little tamer; to bee short I got up £100 from them and this account from the agent which is as followeth:—

	£	s.	d.
“ The whole rent of your proportion, from the “ 16th October 1654 till May 1658, is, besides “ the arrears of the freeholders .....	451	0	0
“ Paid in contribution to the said time and the “ collector’s fees .....	200	16	0
“ Paid by Mr. Harrington .....	37	14	0
“ Expended in prosecuting the claims of the free- “ holders .....	15	0	0
“ Sent you herewith a bill of exchange, payable “ by the Treasurer of the Army, at twenty days’ “ sight .....	97	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£451	0	0
	<hr/>		

“ This should have been £100, but the carrying of it up to  
 “ Dublin and the exchange of it thence took up the £2:10.  
 “ Thus I have given you a relation how I found things, and  
 “ what I have done.

“ Now I will give you my advice, but take your own resolutions in doing what seems best in your judgments. Your tenants are in a very unsettled condition. Leases they have none; then you may imagine what kind of houses they live in. There is very much land in Ireland waste, and if these few tenants of yours go off your land, as it is hazardous they will if a speedy course be not taken to settle them, your land will not be planted again in haste. My advice is that you either settle *Mr. Harrington* again in your land, or else eject him by a legal course of law, or else purchase him out, the last of which I conceive may be the best way; for what with his arrears which he is owing before the rebellion, and his arrears since, I conceive some small sum may doe it, which, if you compasse, I will (making me a lease of the said proportion for sixty-one years) pay you *Mr. Harrington's* rent, which is £138 a-year, over and above all fees and contribution, and haply give you something towards the buying out of *Mr. Harrington*.

“ Of this and other your resolutions I pray, with as much speed as conveniently you may, let me receive your resolution and commands, and by the next post pray let me receive an acquittance or receipt for this £100, now sent unto you by bill and in expense; soe takes leave

“ Your very humble servant,

“ *Dublin, this 26 October,*      “ *TRISTRAM BERESFORD.*  
 “ 1658.”

About the time this letter was received, *Mr. Harrington* applied to the Company for a lease of the estate; but the consideration of his proposal was postponed, and Mr. Beresford continued to act as the Company's agent.

At the restoration of *King Charles the Second*, the City of London, to make sure of the possession of the estates, petitioned the Crown for a reversal of the judgment given against their first letters patent; but, as it was thought that the proceedings necessary to be adopted in this respect would be tedious, the King proposed to grant a new charter, which should embrace all the possessions and rights the City and the Companies originally

1662.  
 Charles  
 the Se-  
 cond.

possessed: and accordingly, on the 10th of April 1662, letters patent were made out, which contained, with very little alteration, all the clauses of the first charter of *James the First*, and thus the title of the Grocers' Company to their estate was fully confirmed and established.

1664.  
Letter  
from the  
Irish So-  
ciety.

In June 1664 the Wardens received the following note from the Governor of the Irish Society:—

*"To the Master and Wardens of the Company of Grocers;  
" by the Society for the Irish Plantation.*

" Whereas the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor of  
" England was heretofore pleased to declare that it was expected  
" by His Majesty that especial care should be taken by those to  
" whom we granted any estate in the lands and other things, in  
" Ulster in the kingdom of Ireland, then lately granted and  
" confirmed to by His Majesty's letters patent under the great  
" seal of England, and that the English be therein preferred;  
" and that such ministers as we should present to any living or  
" spiritual promotions should be able and orthodox divines, and  
" certified so to be by the Lord Bishop of Londonderry for the  
" time being: Now, forasmuch as we have lately conveyed to  
" your Company a considerable quantity of the lands and pre-  
" mises so granted, we thought it requisite to acquaint you  
" therewith, to the end that, as well in your presentments as  
" also in granting any estate in the lands and premises so con-  
" veyed unto you, you may have respect thereunto and observe  
" the same, as you will answer the contrary. Dated at Guildhall,  
" the 7th of June 1664.

" By order of the said Society,

" JOHN SPRACKLING, Sec."

1675.  
The estate  
demised to  
Mr. Finch.

In 1675 the Company being greatly embarrassed in its circumstances, on account of the forced loans, which had never been repaid, and of the losses incurred by the great fire of London,\* came to the determination of raising a sum of money to relieve their immediate wants, by granting a long lease of their Irish estate for a fine in hand, and at a trifling rent. Advertisements for tenders were circulated, and the result was that they demised the lands to Mr. George Finch, for a period of thirty-one years from Allhallowtide 1676, at a rent of £10, and a fine of £3600.

\* See pages 29 and 116.

In 1689 the Company's possessions in Ireland were placed in jeopardy by the siege of Londonderry, which lasted 105 days, and which, after the rebels had been beaten off with enormous loss, left the city almost in ruins, and the inhabitants in a state of extreme distress.\* At this juncture, *Mr. George Walker*,† who with such courage and constancy had conducted the defence, applied in person to the Irish Society for a contribution to relieve his suffering fellow citizens. This naturally induced the Society to address the twelve Companies of London, as the most interested in the prosperity of Ireland; and the result of the application was, a gift of £100 from each of them. This had the desired effect of inducing those who had abandoned the city to return and build their houses again.

1689.  
Siege of  
London-  
derry.

The tenant, Mr. Finch, dying about this period, his widow addressed the Company by letter, in October 1693, stating that in consequence of the estate having been devastated, and the houses upon it burned during the defence of Londonderry, she would be totally ruined, unless the Company granted her an extension of time on her lease; which being considered, the Court resolved to add seven years to her term.

A Mr. Connolly, having purchased from the Finches their interest in the lease, made an arrangement with the Company, by which their Irish estate was let to him for 61 years, and three lives, from the 10th of October 1760. Mr. David Babington, law-agent to the Irish Society, afterwards bought the lease of the Connolly family; and, at the expiration of the third life, which was that of his late Majesty George III. testified great anxiety that a new term should be granted to him, which the Company

\* "Of seven thousand five hundred men regimented in Derry, four thousand three hundred only remained to be witnesses of this deliverance; and of these more than one thousand were incapable of service. The wretched spectres had scarcely tasted food, when they had the hardiness to march in quest of the enemy; and some few men were lost by adventuring too boldly on their rear guard. They retired in vexation to Strabane, having lost eight thousand men by the sword, and by various disorders, in a siege of one hundred and five days."—*Leland's History of Ireland*.

† "Mr. Walker, so justly famous for his defence of Derry, (when Lundy, the Governor, would have surrendered it to King James,) was a Clergy-man, and Rector of Donoughmore, near Derry. He received the thanks of Parliament and a gift of £5,000 for his valour, and was created D.D. by the University of Oxford in 1690."—*Derriana*.

declined granting. The system of underletting in Ireland having given rise to general and well-founded complaints, the Court of Assistants resolved to do all in their power to ameliorate the condition of the occupiers of the soil, by enabling them, without reference to the more or less quantity of land they rented, to hold immediately from the Company. When the estate was surrendered up they proceeded to carry their project into effect : lands have since been enclosed ; the town of Muff rebuilt, with every attention to the wants and comforts of the tenants ; schools have been established, and all the public establishments in the vicinity, whether for the improvement of the mind, or the relief of the body in sickness, have been munificently aided. Deputations have from time to time been appointed, to inspect in person the progress of the works and the improved condition of the people, and an active and intelligent agent appointed to reside on the spot.

The result of these measures has, so far, been most gratifying ; and when the Company's plans are carried into full effect, there is no doubt that the condition of the peasantry in these districts, will hold out an inducement to the possessors of lands in other parts of Ireland to follow so noble an example.\*

\* I ought not to dismiss the subject of the Company's Irish estate without stating, that *Erasmus Smith*, a Grocer, and the friend and contemporary of *Sir John Cutler*, in 1669, obtained permission by charter, to erect and endow, at his own expense, three public schools, in Drogheda, Galway, and Tipperary. This is known by the designation of Erasmus Smith's Charity. The Company gave the Governors of it, in 1810, a piece of ground, not exceeding two acres, near the church, at Muff, for a school.

#### ERRATA.

- Page 12, last line, for *further*, read *further*.  
75, line 4, for *orginal*, read *original*.  
172, line 23, for 1627, read 1267.  
279, line 24, for TYRES, read TYLRS.  
283, line 17, for TYARS, read TYERS.





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